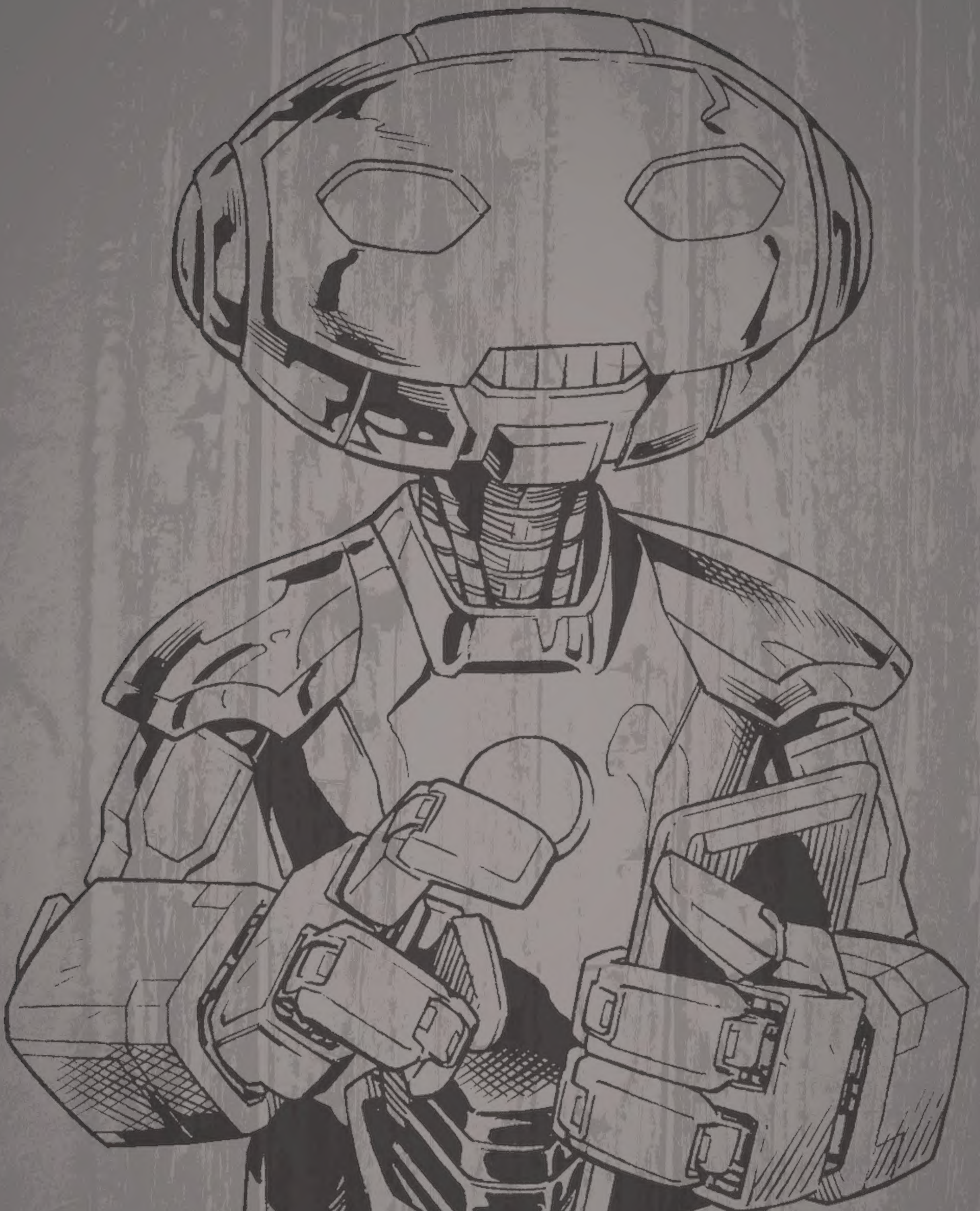
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

THE IDW COLLECTION V10



TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

THE IDW COLLECTION V10

IDW

Become our fan on Facebook **facebook.com/idwpublishing**
Follow us on Twitter **@idwpublishing**
Subscribe to us on YouTube **youtube.com/idwpublishing**
See what's new on Tumblr **tumblr.idwpublishing.com**
Check us out on Instagram **instagram.com/idwpublishing**

eISBN: 9781684068210 DIGITAL

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: THE IDW COLLECTION, VOLUME 10. JANUARY 2020. © 2020 Viacom International Inc. All Rights Reserved. Nickelodeon, TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES, and all related titles, logos and characters are trademarks of Viacom International Inc. © 2020 Viacom Overseas Holdings C.V. All Rights Reserved. Nickelodeon, TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES, and all related titles, logos and characters are trademarks of Viacom Overseas Holdings C.V. Based on characters created by Peter Laird and Kevin Eastman. Ghostubusters ™ & © Columbia Pictures, Inc. All rights reserved.© 2020 Idea and Design Works, LLC. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 2765 Truxtun Road, San Diego, CA 92106. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.

Originally published as TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES UNIVERSE issues #19–20, TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES FREE COMIC BOOK DAY 2017, TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES issues #73–75, TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: DIMENSION X issues #1–5, and TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES/GHOSTBUSTERS 2 issues #1–5.

COVER ART BY
DAN DUNCAN

SERIES EDITS BY
BOBBY CURNOW

COLLECTION EDITS BY
JUSTIN EISINGER
AND ALONZO SIMON

COLLECTION DESIGN BY
GILBERTO LAZCANO

PRODUCTION ASSISTANCE BY
SHAWN LEE

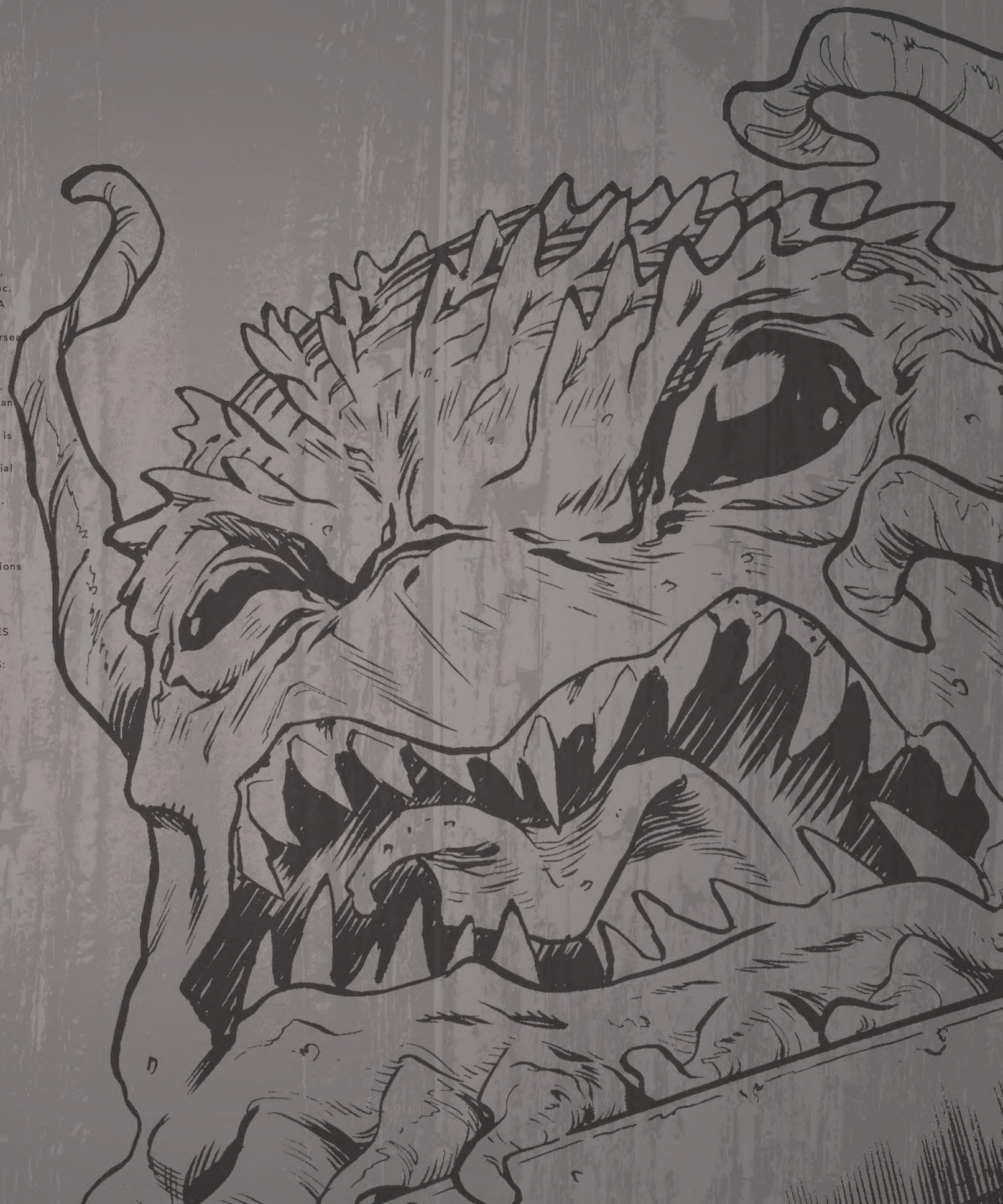
nickelodeon

Special thanks to Joan Hilty and Linda Lee for their invaluable assistance.

Chris Ryall, President & Publisher/CCO
John Barber, Editor-in-Chief
Cara Morrison, Chief Financial Officer
Matthew Ruzicka, Chief Accounting Officer
David Hedgecock, Associate Publisher
Jerry Bennington, VP of New Product Development
Lorelei Bunjes, VP of Technology & Information Services
Jud Meyers, Sales Director
Anna Morrow, Marketing Director
Tara McCrillis, Director of Design & Production
Mike Ford, Director of Operations
Justin Eisinger, Editorial Director, Graphic Novels & Collections
Eric Moss, Sr. Director, Licensing & Business Development
Rebekah Cahalin, General Manager

Ted Adams and Robbie Robbins, IDW Founders

For international rights, please contact
licensing@idwpublishing.com



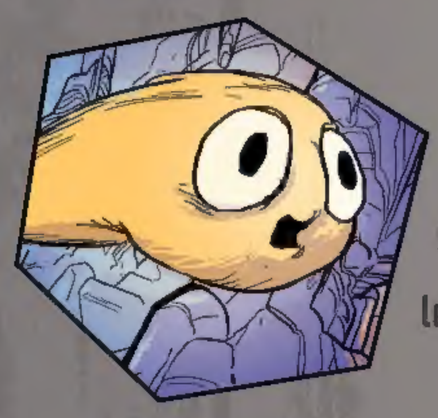
UNIVERSE #19: "SERVICE ANIMALS" ..... pg 06
script by IAN FLYNN art by DAVE WACHTER
colors by RONDA PATTISON letters by SHAWN LEE

UNIVERSE #20: "SERVICE ANIMALS" ..... pg 28
script by IAN FLYNN art by DAVE WACHTER
colors by RONDA PATTISON letters by SHAWN LEE

UNIVERSE #20: "THROUGH RED EYES" ..... pg 50
script by MATTHEW K. MANNING art by ADAM GORHAM
colors by BRITTANY PEER letters by SHAWN LEE

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY 2017 ..... pg 56
story by KEVIN EASTMAN, BOBBY CURNOW, & TOM WALTZ
script by TOM WALTZ art by CORY SMITH
colors by RONDA PATTISON letters by SHAWN LEE

ISSUE #73 ..... pg 78
story by KEVIN EASTMAN, BOBBY CURNOW, & TOM WALTZ
script by TOM WALTZ art by CORY SMITH
colors by RONDA PATTISON letters by SHAWN LEE



DIMENSION X #1 ..... pg 100
script by PAUL ALLOR art by PABLO TUNICA
letters by SHAWN LEE

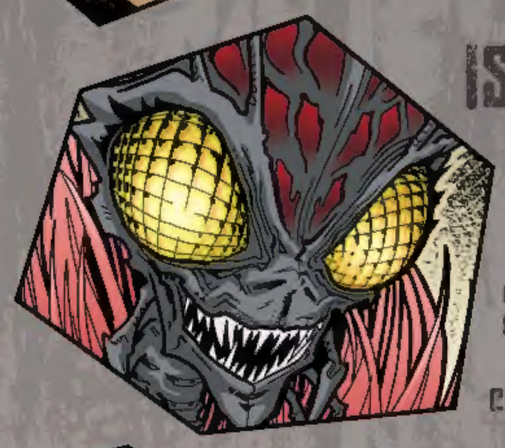
DIMENSION X #2 ..... pg 122
script by ULISES FARINAS & ERICK FREITAS
art by MICHAEL DIALYNAS letters by SHAWN LEE

DIMENSION X #3 ..... pg 144
script by AUBREY SITTERSON art by KHARY RANDOLPH
colors by JOHN RAUCH letters by SHAWN LEE

DIMENSION X #4 ..... pg 166
script by RYAN FERRIER art by CHRIS JOHNSON
colors by MARK ENGLERT letters by SHAWN LEE

DIMENSION X #5 ..... pg 188
script by DEVIN GRAYSON art by CRAIG ROUSSEAU
colors by LEONARDO ITO letters by SHAWN LEE

ISSUE #24 ..... pg 210
story by KEVIN EASTMAN, BOBBY CURNOW, & TOM WALTZ
script by TOM WALTZ art by CORY SMITH
colors by RONDA PATTISON letters by SHAWN LEE



ISSUE #25 ..... pg 232
story by KEVIN EASTMAN, BOBBY CURNOW, & TOM WALTZ
script by TOM WALTZ art by CORY SMITH, MATEUS SANTOLOUCO, CHRIS JOHNSON, & DAMIAN COUCEIRO
colors by RONDA PATTISON letters by SHAWN LEE

TMNT/GHOSTBUSTERS 2 #1 ..... pg 274
script by ERIK BURNHAM & TOM WALTZ
art by DAN SCHOENING colors by LUIS ANTONIO DELGADO
letters by SHAWN LEE

TMNT/GHOSTBUSTERS 2 #2 ..... pg 296
script by ERIK BURNHAM & TOM WALTZ
art by DAN SCHOENING, MARK TORRES, PABLO TUNICA, & TADD GALUSHA
colors by LUIS ANTONIO DELGADO letters by SHAWN LEE

TMNT/GHOSTBUSTERS 2 #3 ..... pg 318
script by ERIK BURNHAM & TOM WALTZ
art by DAN SCHOENING, PABLO TUNICA, MARK TORRES, & TADD GALUSHA
colors by LUIS ANTONIO DELGADO letters by SHAWN LEE

TMNT/GHOSTBUSTERS 2 #4 ..... pg 340
script by ERIK BURNHAM & TOM WALTZ
art by TADD GALUSHA, DAN SCHOENING, PABLO TUNICA, MARK TORRES, & CHARLES PAUL WILSON III
colors by LUIS ANTONIO DELGADO letters by SHAWN LEE

TMNT/GHOSTBUSTERS 2 #5 ..... pg 362
script by ERIK BURNHAM & TOM WALTZ
art by CHARLES PAUL WILSON III & DAN SCHOENING
colors by LUIS ANTONIO DELGADO letters by SHAWN LEE

UNIVERSE #19
"SERVICE ANIMALS"

art by FREDDIE E. WILLIAMS II
colors by JEREMY COLWELL

ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE PLACE? SEEMS AWFULLY QUIET.

I'M NOT FALLING FOR THAT.

"FALLING FOR" WHAT?

YOU'RE SETTING ME UP TO SAY "IT'S TOO QUIET." I'M NOT GOING TO FALL FOR THAT CLICHE.

WELL, THEN, WHAT FUN ARE YOU?

NULL INDUSTRIES IS STEALING ANIMALS FROM PET STORES ACROSS THE CITY. WHAT'S "FUN" ABOUT THAT?

NOTHING. AND NEITHER IS THIS STAKEOUT. YOU'RE *SURE* WE'VE GOT THE RIGHT BUILDING?

NOBODY TRACKED THE LAST THEFT HERE. THEN...

...*SOMETHING* JUST ABOUT FRIED HER IN HER SUIT.

SO SHE CALLED IN THE "LOW TECH" OPTION, *HUH?* AND SHE'S SURE IT'S NULL?

THE THIEF WAS A SIX-FOOT SCORPION.

ZOD!! OH-HO-HO! NOW THERE'S ONE BUG I CAN'T WAIT TO STOMP!

VEHICLE APPROACHING.

VAN MATCHES THE ONE NOBODY SAW.

HERE, QUICK. IS THAT *ZOD!?*

THAT'S HER ALL RIGHT. AND SHE'S UNLOADING A TON OF STOLEN PETS.

LET'S GET HER!

RAPH! WAIT!

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?!

WE'RE HERE TO FIND OUT WHAT THEY'RE DOING WITH THE ANIMALS!

WE WON'T GET ANY INTEL BY BARGING IN AND KICKING EVERYONE'S ASS!

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT. WHATTAYA WANT? A MEDAL?

I SWEAR SPLINTER TRAINED SAMURAI INSTEAD OF NINJA...

THERE'S NO COVER BETWEEN HERE AND THE LOADING DOCK.

LUCKILY, I THINK A FOG BANK IS ABOUT TO ROLL IN.

BWOOSH

HOLD UP. I THINK I SEE MOVEMENT BEHIND THE GLASS.

ME TOO.

RAPHAEL... THEY'RE GROWING... *SOMETHING...*

WHO ARE THEY EVEN MAKING MUTANTS *FOR...?*

C'MON, LET'S...

... HURRY. *UH...*

THIS IS ONLY THE FIRST FLOOR AND IT'S TOO BIG TO SEARCH. WHAT DO WE DO?

THE STAFF NEEDS TO KNOW HOW TO GET AROUND, RIGHT?

SO WE'LL JUST USE THEIR OWN SYSTEMS TO TELL US WHERE TO GO.

GOOD THINKING!

USERNAME:

PASSWORD:

ANY IDEA WHAT THE LOGIN WOULD BE?

ARE YOU KIDDING? HOW SHOULD I KNOW?

NOW I WISH I'D BROUGHT DONNIE ALONG.

THEN AGAIN...

ARE YOU *CRAZY?*

RELAX. OUR NEW FRIEND HERE SEES WEIRDOS LIKE ALL THE TIME, RIGHT? HE'D BE HAPPY TO HELP US OUT.

SO HOW ABOUT YOU TELL US WHERE—

WHAM

CRASH

FINE. WE'LL DO IT THE FUN WAY!

HMMR

WHAP
WHAP
WHAP

WHOOSH

THWACK

WHUMP

KRAK KRAK KRAK

KRAK

KRAK

NOT EVEN *HUFF* A BRUISE...

WHAT *PANT* IS THAT THING...

A NULL BRAND *HOMUNCULUS.*

FOR NINJA, YOU TWO SURE ARE LOUD AS HELL.

NEW PLAN! WE BEAT THE INFO OUT OF *HER!*

PFFT. YOU CAN TRY.

THAT'S ENOUGH.

UH, NO? YOU'RE ON MY TAIL.

I'M GOING TO SKIN YOU FOR HOURS.

HOLD HER! I'LL—

RAPH— *WAIT!*

LISTEN TO ME— *BOTH* OF YOU.

I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE AN ENSLAVED MUTANT. TO BE SOMEONE ELSE'S WEAPON.

GO WHERE YOU'RE TOLD. KILL WHO YOU'RE TOLD. QUESTION NOTHING. ONLY OBEY.

I ALSO KNOW THERE IS *MORE* TO LIFE. THE TURTLES HELPED ME FIND THAT.

AND—IN TIME—THEY FORGAVE ME. I KNOW THEY COULD DO THE SAME FOR YOU.

WE DON'T HAVE TO LEAVE HERE AS FRIENDS, BUT WE CAN ALL WALK OUT OF HERE—*FREE*.

BWA HA HA HA HA!

OH MAN— *HEE-HEE!* THAT'S A NEW ONE!

AND YOU WERE *SO PASSIONATE* ABOUT IT TOO!

YOU MAY HAVE BEEN STOCK FOR THE FOOT CLAN, BUT I'M A COMPANY WOMAN.

I'M PART OF THE PLAN. I'M PART OF THE TEAM. AND I *ENJOY* MY WORK.

IF "FREEDOM" MAKES YOU FEEL LIKE LESS OF A REJECT, MORE POWER TO YOU. BUT I'VE ACTUALLY GOT A LIFE HERE, *THANKS.*

I SHOULDN'T HAVE STOPPED YOU. LET'S TEAR HER APART!

NO, YOU WERE RIGHT THE FIRST TIME.

WHAT?

WE NEED INTEL FIRST, NOT A FIGHT.

I DON'T WANT TO BE RIGHT ANYMORE!

WE KNOW YOU'VE BEEN ROBBING PET STORES.

WE CAME TO FIND OUT WHY.

FOR THE ANIMALS, *DUH.*

DON'T BE DENSE!

IT'S EASIER THAN HUNTING DOWN WILD ONES?

PLUS THE PURE-BRED ONES HAVE PREDICTABLE GENE SEQUENCES.

MAKES UPGRADING THEM EASIER.

"UPGRADING?" OH NO...

HOW MANY MUTANTS HAVE YOU MADE?!

ME, PERSONALLY? ZERO. I'M NO GENETICIST.

BUT THAT'S ME BEING "DENSE" AGAIN, *HUH?* I DUNNO HOW MANY, HONESTLY.

BUT I'VE BEEN STALLING SO OUR NEWEST GRADUATE HAD TIME TO GET INTO POSITION.

THAT'S YOUR CUE, HONEY!

AW, CRAP...

art by DAVE WACHTER

UNIVERSE #20
"SERVICE ANIMALS"

art by FREDDIE E. WILLIAMS II
colors by JEREMY COLWELL

NICE RESCUE MISSION. *REAL* STEALTHY.

SHUT UP!

HAHAHA! SUCH WITTY REPARTEE!

NO... WAIT... PLUM WAS THE SMART ONE, RIGHT?

YOU WERE THE HAIR-TRIGGER, TOMATO.

DON'T CALL ME TOMATO!

I DON'T REMEMBER YOUR NAMES. I'M GUESSING YOU'RE ALL THEMED, THOUGH.

LIKE A BOY BAND.

RRRRGH!

OKAY— REAL TALK?

YOU AND FLUFFY OVER THERE COULDN'T TAKE ME TOGETHER.

NOW IT'S TWO-ON-TWO. YOU'RE AS GOOD AS DEAD!

SAY THAT AGAIN AFTER I PIN YOU TO THE WALL!

ALOPEX! THAT SPEECH YOU GAVE ZOD! TRY IT AGAIN ON THE SNAKE!

I'M NOT WASTING MY TIME AGAIN! WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR BLEEDING HEARTS!

WHACK

I GET THAT BUT— GUH!

CLANG

CCLANG CCLANG CCLANG CCLANG

I GET THAT. BUT THE SNAKE ISN'T THIS BUG.

SHE MIGHT STILL HAVE A SOUL.

ORANGE WAS THE SAPPY ONE. YOU'RE GETTING YOUR ROLES MIXED UP!

NAH, MIKEY WOULD STILL BE TRYING TO REASON WITH YOU. I RAN OUT OF MERCY THE LAST TIME!

SLAM

whimper

OH NO...

"KRISA," RIGHT?

...YES?

LISTEN TO ME. I *DO NOT* WANT TO HURT YOU.

I'VE BEEN WHERE YOU ARE NOW: A MUTANT MADE TO SERVE AND FIGHT FOR OTHERS.

BUT I GOT OUT. RAPHAEL—THE TURTLE OVER THERE—HE AND HIS BROTHERS HELPED ME. THEY CAN HELP YOU TOO.

YOU CAN BE MORE THAN A WEAPON. YOU CAN BE YOUR *OWN PERSON.*

B-BUT... YOU BROKE IN HERE...

TO SAVE THE PETS NULL INDUSTRIES HAVE BEEN STEALING. YOU WERE ONE OF THOSE ONCE.

I... THINK SO. I REMEMBER IT BEING QUIET... WARM... THEN CAME THE PAIN, THE NEW THOUGHTS, THE TRAINING...

THEY'RE GOING TO DO THE SAME THING TO COUNTLESS OTHER ANIMALS. KRISA—WILL YOU HELP US?

WHAT ARE YOU EVEN STEALING ANIMALS FOR?

CAN'T YOUR CREEPY CORPORATE GOONS JUST BUY THEM?!

CONVENIENCE.

LEAVES A PAPER TRAIL.

MASS PURCHASES RAISE QUESTIONS.

PLUS NOBODY WOULD SUSPECT A TECH DEVELOPER WOULD ROB PET SHOPS.

AUGH!

CURIOSITY SATED? READY TO DIE WITH NO REGRETS?

CLANG

CLANG

NOT QUITE.

CASEY STILL OWES ME A FOOSBALL REMATCH.

THEN I CAN PUNCH OUT.

CRACK

HOLD STILL. IT'S A SMALL TARGET, BUT I'M SURE I CAN HIT YOUR BRAIN.

KRISA.

KRISA!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

THINKING. FOR *MYSELF*.

THE PETS WILL STILL BE IN PROCESSING.

LEFT, DOWN THE HALL, THEN FOLLOW THE BLUE LINE AND TAKE A RIGHT AT THE T-JUNCTION.

KOFF THANKS. WISH WE'D RUN INTO YOU FIRST.

NOW— *FINALLY*— IT'S TIME FOR SOME PAY-BACK.

RAPH! WAIT!

KRISA SEEMS... INNOCENT.

MESSING UP ZODI WHILE SHE'S HOLDING HER IS GOING TO DAMAGE HER FOREVER.

RRRRRGH... FINE.

C'MON! I'LL NEED A HAND GETTING ALL THOSE PETS!

ARE YOU GOING TO BE OKAY HERE, KRISA?

I'M STRONGER THAN HER. GO. *HURRY.*

KRISA, I'M GONNA COUNT TO TEN, AND IF YOU HAVEN'T LET ME GO, I'M GOING TO BE *SERIOUSLY TICKED OFF!*

ONE! TWO! THREE-FO-FI-NINE-TEN!

KRISA!

NO. I AM NOT YOUR WEAPON TO USE.

NO. YOU ARE NULL'S WEAPON TO USE. SAME AS ME. IT'S OUR JOB. OUR PURPOSE.

BUT... I DON'T WANT TO BE A WEAPON.

FINE. WE'LL CALL YOU AN "OPERATIVE," OR "AGENT." THE POINT IS YOU'RE PART OF THE PROGRAM, HONEY.

WELL... I DON'T CARE. YOU STOLE THOSE ANIMALS.

THEY WILL KNOW PEACE NOW.

HAVE YOU *READ* THE FILES ON HUMANITY? THE PROGRAM IS THE ONLY WAY THOSE ANIMALS WILL SURVIVE WHAT'S COMING!

BREEET BREEET BREEET

GREAT! I *REALLY* DON'T WANT TO BE FIGHTING MORE THAN ONE OF THOSE CLONE-PUPPET-GUYS!

WE GET KRISA AND RUN!

WE HAVE THE PETS! KRISA—LET'S GO!

...NO.

OKAY— *THAT'S* SATISFYING.

YOU'RE A PYTHON, RIGHT? CHOKE HER OUT AND LET'S GO!

ALOPEX!

I... I DON'T WANT TO HURT HER.

BUT I CANNOT LET HER GO.

YOU COULD TRY DRAGGING US BOTH OUT, LASSIE.

BLAM BLAM BLAM

HOLD YOUR FIRE!

THERE'S TWO PREMIUM PRODUCTS IN HERE!

I'LL DISABLE HER! JUST COME ON!

NO! I HELPED THESE BAD PEOPLE! NOW I'M ATONING BY HELPING *YOU!*

RUN!

WATCH YOUR FIRE! DON'T HIT THE ASSETS!

THANK YOU, KRISA! WE *WILL* COME BACK FOR YOU!

BLAM BLAM BLAM

BLAM

...NO BLOOD? WHAT ARE THEY, PLANTS?

START THE VAN! I'LL LOAD THE ANIMALS!

WHERE'S KRISA?!

SHE STAYED BEHIND TO COVER US!

THIS ISN'T FAIR...

SKREEEEEEEEEE

AW, COME ON! WHERE ARE THE @#$%ING KEYS?!

SCREW IT.

VROOOOM

RAAAAUGH!

I GOT THROUGH TO HER! SHE WAS A GOOD SOUL, RAPH!

AND I COULDN'T SAVE HER!

...LOOK. THE TWO OF US COULD BARELY KEEP ZODI BUSY.

KRISA TOOK HER DOWN AND *KEPT* HER DOWN. SHE'S TOUGH.

IT TOOK US A WHILE TO GET YOU AWAY FROM SHREDDER AND HIS FOOT CLAN WAS ARGUABLY MORE DANGEROUS THAN NULL. YOU CAME OUT OF IT ALL OKAY.

I GUESS WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT. SHE'LL HOLD OUT UNTIL WE CAN FIND A WAY TO GET HER.

...I HOPE SO.

THANKS, RAPH. FOR EVERYTHING.

SURE THING.

SO... *UH*... ARE WE GOING TO PARK THIS IN FRONT OF A POLICE PRECINCT OR WHAT?

WE LOST *TWO YEARS* WORTH OF INVENTORY TO A TURTLE WITH GIANT FORKS AND AN UNARMED FOX.

EXPLAIN.

I...

IT'S ENTIRELY MY FAULT, MISS NULL.

I WASTED TIME TOYING WITH THE OFF-BRAND MUTANTS WHEN I SHOULD'VE SIMPLY ELIMINATED THEM. I THEN BROUGHT IN A NEW PRODUCT WELL BEFORE SHE WAS READY FOR ACTIVE COMBAT.

I ACTED UNPROFESSIONALLY, AND ALL SHORT-COMINGS BY THE REST OF THE STAFF ARE A DIRECT RESULT OF MY FAILINGS.

VERY WELL. LISTEN *VERY* CLOSELY, KRISA.

BY THE VIRTUE OF ZODI'S REPORT AND *STERLING* PERFORMANCE RECORD, I WILL FORGIVE YOUR *GRIEVOUS* ERROR IN JUDGMENT THIS *ONE TIME*.

THIS IS YOUR SECOND CHANCE. YOU *WILL NOT* RECEIVE A THIRD.

DISMISSED.

YOU... LIED FOR ME.

I FOCUSED ON SPECIFIC DETAILS. LIKE I TOLD YOU—WE'RE BOTH PART OF THE PROGRAM.

YOU TOOK ME DOWN, SO TOP MARKS FOR YOU. A LITTLE MORE TRAINING TO GET YOUR HEAD IN THE RIGHT PLACE, AND YOU'RE GONNA BE A *KILLER* PRODUCT!

HELLO? *AH, YES!* NO, THIS IS PERFECT TIMING.

WE SUFFERED A BIT OF A SET-BACK TONIGHT, BUT REST ASSURED—

INCOMING

WE'LL HAVE THE PLANET PURGED AND PRIMED FOR YOU RIGHT ON SCHEDULE.

art by DAVE WACHTER

art by TIM LATTIE

UNIVERSE #20
"THROUGH RED EYES"

CRACK

...UUHLLL...

SMASH

ZAP ZAP BLAM ZAP ZAPITY ZAP BLAM

HEY, RAPH. WANNA JUMP IN? 'BOUT TO BEAT THE HIGH SCORE.

HRM.

THUMP

=HUFF= THAT ALL =HUFF HUFF= OF THEM?

=HUFF= YUP. =HUFF=

ZAP ZAP ZAPPITY

I KNOW YOU DIDN'T JUST TRY AND SAP MY LIFE FORCE LIKE THAT.

ZAP ZAP ZAPPITY

WHAT, YOU THINK I CAN'T DODGE BRAIN BLASTS?

ZAP BLAM BLAM

TASTE MY RIGHTEOUS FURY, YOU UNHOLY ABOMINATION!

BLAM BLAM BLAM

RIGHTEOUS FUUURRRYYY!

WHOA!

I HAD THE HIGH SCORE, YOU...

...JERKMUDGEON!

I.

HAD.

THE.

HIGH.

SCORE!

THUD THUD THUD THUD

=HUFF HUFF=

NOW YOU GONNA TELL ME WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON OR WHAT?

I DON'T KNOW.

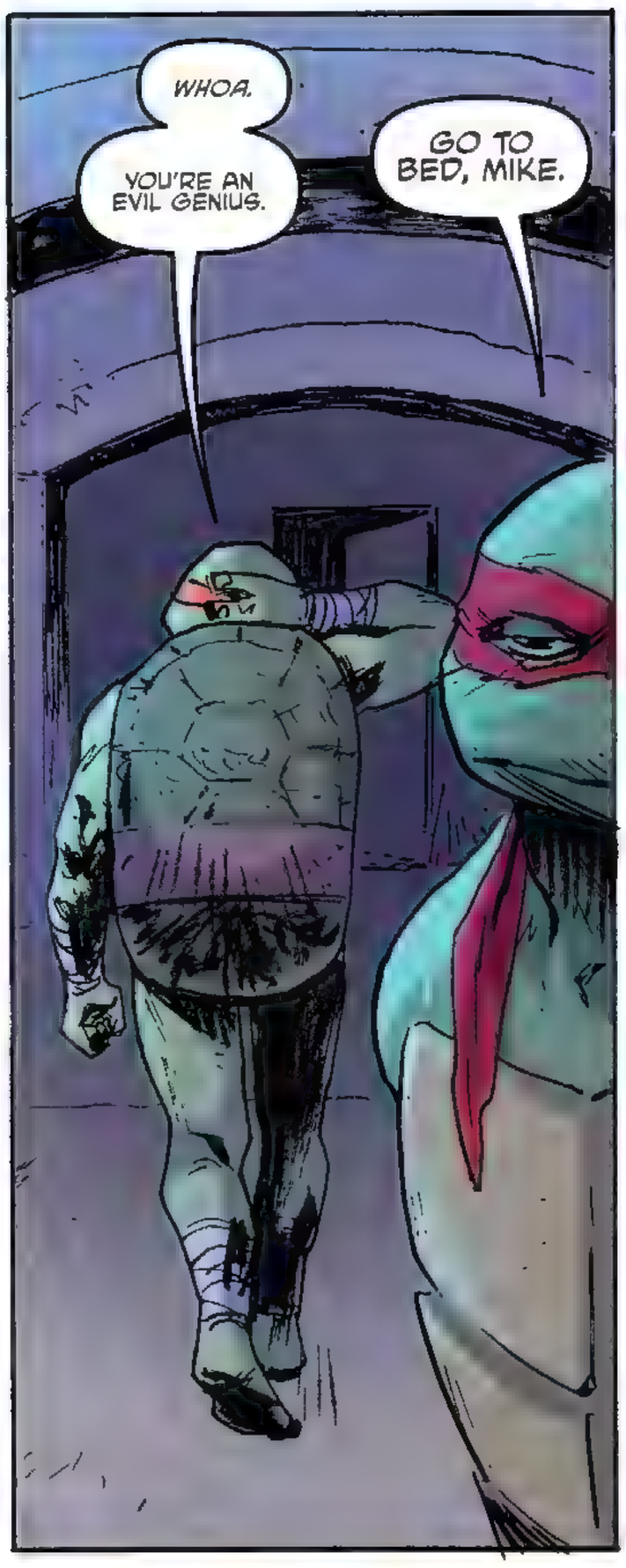
=HUFF=

I'VE JUST... I... I'VE GOT TOO MUCH IN MY HEAD.

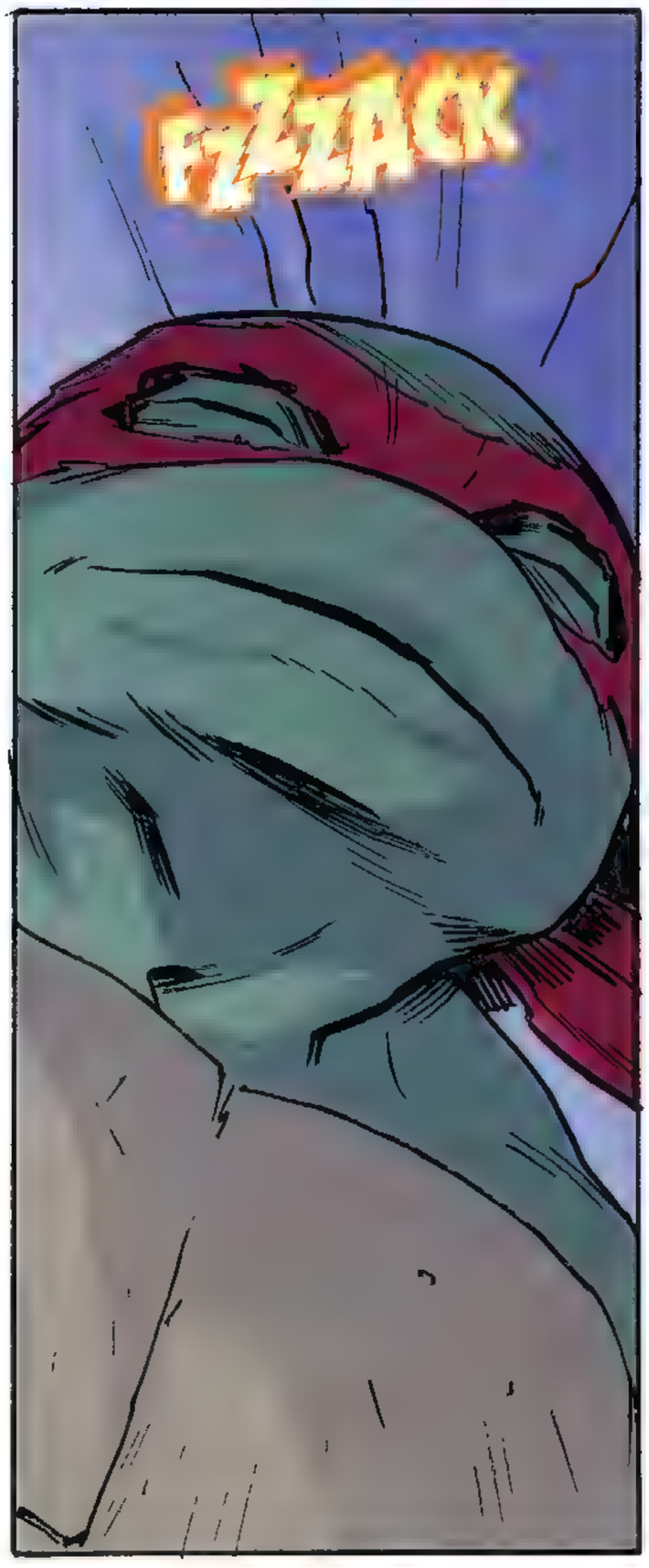
BETWEEN THOSE CRAZY PANTHEON GUYS AND THAT WEIRDO BISHOP AND LEATHERHEAD AND—

IT'S HARD TO SLEEP SOMETIMES.

—YAWN—
SEE? AND NOW YOU'RE TIRED.


WHOA.
YOU'RE AN EVIL GENIUS.
GO TO BED, MIKE.

FZZZAT FZZZACK
AW, C'MON!


FZZZACK

FZZZACK
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!

THE END.

art by RAFFAELE IENCO

art by CORY SMITH

FCBD 2017

beep

OH... CRUD.

KZAD

GAH!

WHOA.

MIKEY, HEADS UP!

WATCH OUT FOR MORE—

beep

K-ZAP

HRGK!

SORRY, LASER DUDES, BUT I *ALREADY* HAD A SHOWER TODAY.

FWK

I REALLY DON'T WANNA TAKE A *BATH*, TOO.

KNAFT

I *KNEW* KEEPIN' THIS PUPPY HANDY WAS A GOOD IDEA.

SO, SHOULD I RUN AND GRAB SOME *TOWELS?*

'CAUSE YOU DUDES ARE LOOKIN' *ALL WET.*

beep

K-ZAP

YOW!!

SPLASH

YOU WERE *SAYIN',* RUNT?

HEH.

OKAY, GUYS, YOU CAN *HEAD BACK* NOW...

...THAT'S *ENOUGH* FOR TODAY.

EASY FOR *HIM* TO SAY.

I THINK I GOT *WATER* IN MY EAR.

'LEAST YOU DIDN'T GET *LASERED* IN YOUR BUTT.

WELL, I'D SAY THAT WAS A *SUCCESSFUL* TEST OF THE NEW SECURITY SYSTEM.

WHAT *DO YOU* THINK...

...*PROFESSOR HONEYCUTT?*

4

YES, DONATELLO, I MUST **AGREE.**

THOUGH I'M A BIT CONCERNED MICHELANGELO WAS CAPABLE OF **DISMANTLING** TWO OF THE LASERS SO EASILY.

MAX 1000

HA! I WOULDN'T READ TOO MUCH INTO *THAT*, PROFESSOR.

MIKEY HAS A KNACK FOR BREAKING THINGS— *ESPECIALLY* HIS TOYS.

PERHAPS. BUT THOSE SURVEILLANCE LASERS ARE NOT MEANT TO BE FRAGILE TOYS.

I'll MAKE A NOTE TO DESIGN A **STURDIER CHASSIS** BEFORE WE REPLACE THEM.

GREAT IDEA.

AND IT'S ALSO GREAT TO BE *WORKING* WITH YOU TO SECURE THE LAIR.

IT SEEMS LIKE A MILLION YEARS SINCE WE LAST COLLABORATED... A MILLION *LONG* YEARS.

I AGREE...

...IT'S REALLY GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK ON THE *TEAM*, PROFESSOR.

YEAH. HURTS SO GOOD.

TOTALLY.

INDEED, MY FRIENDS. THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY A REUNION TO BE **APPRECIATED.**

ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING ALL THE **TRIALS** WE'VE BEEN THROUGH RECENTLY—

"—THERE WAS A TIME, FOLLOWING THE VIOLENCE OF THE LEATHERHEAD INCIDENT ON BURNOW ISLAND, THAT I FEARED THIS MIGHT **NEVER** BE POSSIBLE AGAIN."

"I HEAR YOU, PROFESSOR.

"THANK GOODNESS MA'RIELL AND THE OTHER UTROMS ON THE ISLAND WERE WILLING TO *REPAIR* THE DAMAGE LEATHERHEAD CAUSED."

"YES, DONATELLO — I OWE THEM A **DEBT OF GRATITUDE** I MAY NEVER BE ABLE TO REPAY."

"I DUNNO, PROF—I'M THINKIN' THAT BILL WAS PAID-IN-FULL WHEN WE SAVED THOSE SQUISHY FREAKS FROM BEIN' A *NIGHTTIME SNACK* FOR THAT PSYCHO."

"YEAH, RAPH. I JUST WISH HE DIDN'T *GET AWAY* AFTER WE TELEPORTED BACK TO NEW YORK. NO TELLING *WHAT* HE'LL DO NEXT, BUT I'M BETTING IT WON'T BE GOOD."

"*AWW*... YOU GUYS ARE *TOO TOUGH* ON LEATHERHEAD...

"...POOR DUDE WENT THROUGH SOME *BAD STUFF* WHEN KRANG HAD HIM LOCKED UP."

"*UH*, MIKE—YOU KNOW WE'RE TALKIN' 'BOUT THE SAME 'POOR DUDE' THAT ALMOST *CHOKED YOU OUT*, RIGHT?"

"STILL..."

"WELL, TORTURED SOUL OR NOT, LEATHERHEAD'S JUST ONE MORE NAME TO ADD TO OUR *LONG LIST* OF PROBLEMS.

"THERE'S *SLASH*, HUN...

CRA-

"...*OLD HOB* AND THE *MUTANIMALS*."

"HEY! THE MUTANIMALS ARE TOTALLY OUR *FRIENDS*, DONNIE!"

"YEAH... EXCEPT WHEN THEY *AIN'T*, MIKE."

"RAPH'S GOT A POINT. IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE *SURROUNDED* BY THE UNPREDICTABLE ALL THE TIME—JUST LOOK AT *JENNIKA* AND *ALOPEX*. I WANT TO *BELIEVE* THEY'RE OUR TRUSTED ALLIES, BUT SOMETIMES..."

"YO, I WASN'T TALKIN' 'BOUT *ALOPEX*, LEO. SHE'S ONE OF US, SO DON'T EVEN *WORRY* ABOUT IT."

"YEAH, DON'T BE THROWIN' SHADE AT RAPH'S *BAE*, LEO."

"SHUT UP, MIKEY."

"SPEAKING OF UNPREDICTABLE, WHAT ABOUT *AKA*? SHE HELPED US ONCE, BUT WILL SHE DO IT *AGAIN*?"

"GOOD QUESTION, DON. WHO KNOWS WHAT SHE *REALLY* WANTS."

"HOPEFULLY SHE DON'T TURN OUT ALL *SPOOKY NUTS* LIKE HER SISTER AND BROTHER."

"TOTALLY, DUDE. *KITSUNE* AND THE *RAT KING* ARE *UBER EVIL*."

"JUST LIKE THAT *AGENT BISHOP* DWEEB AND THOSE *DARKWATER* PUNKS, MIKEY. BAD NEWS EVERYWHERE."

"YEAH... BISHOP'S WAY CREEPY. ILLUMINATI *CONFIRMED*, BRO."

"DON'T FORGET *BEBOP*, *ROCKSTEADY*, *KOYA*, AND *BLUDGEON*."

"WAIT, DONNIE—NOW THAT MASTER SPLINTER TOOK OUT SHREDDER AND *RUNS* THE FOOT CLAN, KOYA AND BLUDGEON ARE TECHNICALLY ON *OUR SIDE* NOW. RIGHT, LEO?"

"TECHNICALLY, YES, MIKEY.

"*KARAI*, TOO, FOR THAT MATTER—THOUGH WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE HOW *THAT* PLAYS OUT."

"JUST LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO SEE HOW THINGS TURN OUT WITH *BAXTER STOCKMAN*. HE SEEMS TO BE TRUSTING *APRIL* RIGHT NOW, BUT CAN WE TRUST *HIM?*"

"I TRUST THAT MANIAC 'BOUT AS FAR AS I CAN *THROW* HIM, DON."

"ACTUALLY, YOU COULD PROBABLY THROW HIM *PRETTY FAR*, RAPH."

"YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN, SMART-BUTT."

"AND THEN THERE'S *KRANG*—

"—I STILL GET *GOOSE-BUMPS* WHEN I THINK ABOUT HOW CLOSE HE CAME TO *TERRAFORMING* EARTH WITH THE TECHNODROME."

"WITH GOOD REASON, DONATELLO. GENERAL KRANG FELL SHORT OF HIS GENOCIDAL DREAMS FOR A **NEW UTROMINON** BY ONLY THE **SLIMMEST** OF MARGINS."

"YOU'RE RIGHT, PROFESSOR. BUT THANKS TO SOME GREAT TEAMWORK, KRANG'S *DOWN* FOR THE COUNT NOW."

"BUT STILL ALIVE, WHICH IS A *GOOD* THING."

"YES, MICHELANGELO— IT IS A VERY GOOD THING, BECAUSE THE GENERAL WILL SOON FACE **LONG OVERDUE JUSTICE** ON PLANET NEUTRINO FOR HIS COUNTLESS WAR CRIMES IN DIMENSION X..."

...WHICH IS WHY, UNFORTUNATELY, I WILL HAVE TO CUT MY VISIT A BIT **SHORTER** THAN I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED AND TELEPORT BACK TO BURNOW ISLAND SOON... AND FROM THERE TO PLANET NEUTRINO IN DIMENSION X.

KING ZENTER IS SENDING COMMANDER DASK AND HIS TEAM ON A MULTI-PLANET MISSION TO RETRIEVE FIVE **KEY WITNESSES** FOR THE PROSECUTION AGAINST GENERAL KRANG, AND HE'S REQUESTED THAT I ACCOMPANY THEM.

ACCOMPANY THEM? WHY?

YEAH—THAT SEEMS LIKE THE KIND OF THING THE COMMANDER AND HIS CREW CAN HANDLE WITH *NO* PROBLEMS.

THEY CANNOT. DESPITE HIS INCARCERATION, KRANG'S DEADLY INFLUENCE IS STILL FELT **FAR AND WIDE** ACROSS DIMENSION X, AND THE WITNESSES ARE LIKELY ALL EITHER **UNWILLING** TO TESTIFY—OR IN **GRAVE DANGER** FOR DOING SO.

HIS MAJESTY FEELS A MORE **DIPLOMATIC** APPROACH IS REQUIRED AND HAS ASKED ME TO JOIN THE MISSION TO SERVE AS A KIND OF **AMBASSADOR** IN ORDER TO HELP THE OTHER WITNESSES UNDERSTAND JUST HOW **VITAL** THEIR TESTIMONY IS TO THE CASE AGAINST THE GENERAL.

"PEER PRESSURE, PROFESSOR?"

beep

"OF A **SORT**, LEONARDO.

"TO BE HONEST, THEIR FEARS ARE **UNDERSTANDABLE**—I, TOO, HAVE MY QUALMS ABOUT OPPOSING GENERAL KRANG. HIS DESTRUCTIVE MADNESS IS NOT SOMETHING TO BE **SCOFFED** AT.

"HOWEVER, IF HE IS TO BE STOPPED ONCE AND FOR ALL, I KNOW I MUST DO **ALL** THAT I CAN TO HELP CONVICT HIM.

"SO THE RESPONSIBILITY FALLS ON ME TO CONVINCE THE OTHER WITNESSES THAT ALTHOUGH THE **RISKS** OF DEFYING GENERAL KRANG ARE **VERY REAL**..."

...THE **REWARDS** OF STOPPING HIS REIGN OF TERROR WILL BE **WELL WORTH IT.**

WHAT THE—

WHAT'S WRONG, DONNIE?

I'M NOT SURE. WE GOT A QUICK PING FROM THE THIRD LASER AND THEN *THIS* MESS.

HEY, DON'T BLAME ME. I ONLY BROKE *TWO* OF 'EM.

SHMP

THAT'S *TOTALLY* NOT MY FAULT.

RELAX, MIKEY— NO ONE'S BLAMING YOU. MUST BE A *POWER SURGE* OR SOMETHING.

LET ME GET THE *FLASHLIGHT* SO I CAN FIND THE BACKUP GENERATOR.

OKAY, LET'S FIGURE OUT WHA—*WAIT* A SEC.

WHERE'S PROFESSOR HONEYCUTT?

DONATELLO...

OH.

HELP...

me...

WHAT *IS* THAT THING?!

IT'S TOO DARK! WE NEED *MORE* LIGHT!

MIKEY!

ON IT, BIG BRO!

SHNK

UNFF!

WHOMP

QUICK— WHILE IT'S *DOWN!*

BUT I CAN BARELY *SEE* IT.

HURRY UP WITH THAT *LIGHT*, DONNIE!

I'M HURRYING...

...I'M HURRYING!

JUST NEED TO *PRIME* THIS THING UP AND—

shpp

HEY!

THUNK

BACK OFF, FREAKO!

WHOMP

MIKEY, HELP DONNIE! WE *NEED* THAT LIGHT!

ROGER DODGER!

I'LL HELP RAPH AND FUGITOID.

I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* THE HELL YOU ARE—OR WHAT YOUR *TRIP* IS—BUT YOU DON'T COME INTO *OUR* HOUSE AND—

GAH!

ENOUGH!

SWIP

ENOUGH MESSING AROUND. WHO *ARE* YOU?

LEONARDO, BE CAREFUL! I KNOW THIS CREATURE.

IT IS CALLED **HAKK-R**. A BOUNTY HUNTER FROM DIMENSION X—

—IT'S FAR MORE THAN IT SEEMS.

ENOUGH MESSING AROUND?

GOOD IDEA.

C'MON, BRO, SNAP OUTTA IT. WE GOTTA GET THIS *GENERATOR* RUNNIN'.

RUNNING? NO... NO RUNNING RIGHT NOW. TOO *TIRED*...

...NEED NAPPY.

OH... MAN.

A BOUNTY HUNTER?

YES—A **CYBERNETIC HYBRID.** CAPABLE OF REGENERATION AND MECHANICAL INTERFACING.

DON'T FORGET... BUTT UGLY...

VERY RUDE.

WHOAAA!

SPLASH

YOU *OKAY*, RAPH?

QUIT WORRYIN' 'BOUT *ME*. JUST GET THIS STINKIN' GENERATOR *FIRED UP*.

FIRED...

FIRE!

KRANG MUST HAVE **SENT** HIM.

BUT WHY?

SWIP

I COME HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

SEE WHAT I MEAN?

CRAP!

NO! ST–

NOW... LET ME SEE WHAT WE'VE GOT IN HERE.

RAPH! DO SOMETHING!

DOIN'!

FWIP

shwp

THANK YOU— THIS WILL COME IN HANDY.

I'VE GOT ALL I NEED FROM THIS OUTDATED PIECE OF JUNK. WHICH MEANS...

YOU'RE ONLY GOOD FOR SPARE PARTS NOW, HONEYCUTT.

GYAHHHH!

I DON'T THINK SO!

FWASH

HOW WAS *THAT* FOR A LIGHT, GUYS?

CAN YOU *STAND*, PROFESSOR?

YES, LEONARDO... YES, I BELIEVE SO.

WHERE'D THAT HAKK-R DUDE *GO?*

YOU FRY HIM TO A *CRISP* OR WHAT, DON?

I... I DON'T KNOW.

NO... THE CREATURE **TELEPORTED** AWAY BEFORE DONATELLO COULD DESTROY IT.

BUT NOT BEFORE IT WAS ABLE TO DO **SERIOUS DAMAGE** OF ITS OWN.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? *WHAT* DAMAGE?

BEFORE IT ESCAPED, HAKK-R WAS ABLE TO **ACCESS** MY MEMORY BANKS.

THE IDENTITIES AND LOCATIONS OF THE OTHER WITNESSES WERE **STORED** THERE AND—

AND IT *DOWNLOADED* THEM. NOT GOOD.

NOT GOOD AT ALL.

SO... WHAT NOW?

NOW IT IS TIME FOR ME TO **RETURN** TO PLANET NEUTRINO, MICHELANGELO.

THE KING MUST BE **INFORMED** WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE—AND COMMANDER DASK AND HIS TEAM MUST BE **WARNED** OF THE **DANGERS** THAT LIE AHEAD.

IF WE DO NOT GET TO THE WITNESSES **BEFORE** HAKK-R DOES, KRANG MAY VERY WELL GO FREE.

NOT IF *WE* CAN HELP IT, PROFESSOR.

WHAT ARE YOU *SAYING*, LEO?

I'M SAYING, AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH WITH KRANG—AFTER ALL THE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION HE CAUSED—THERE'S *NO WAY* WE LET HIM GET OFF SCOT-FREE.

NO WAY WE LET HIM THREATEN *EARTH* AGAIN WITH HIS INSANITY.

SO WHAT WE GONNA *DO* ABOUT IT, BRO?

WE'RE GONNA *HELP* PROFESSOR HONEYCUTT AND THE NEUTRINOS *FIX* THIS, RAPH.

WE'RE GOING *BACK* TO **DIMENSION X.**

art by JULIO OAS PASTORAS

DIMENSION X #1

art by NICK PITARRA
colors by CHRIS CHUCKRY

IN ORBIT AROUND PLANET GO'MO.

AHHH, NEUTRINOS. SUCH LOVELY MUSICIANS. YET SO EASY TO KILL.

OR PERHAPS THOSE QUALITIES ARE CONNECTED. PERHAPS GREAT ART REQUIRES AN EMOTIONAL VULNERABILITY AND VOLATILITY THAT LEAVES THEM SUSCEPTIBLE TO PREDATORY ACTS.

I SHOULD MAKE A NOTE TO PONDER THIS FURTHER. SEE WHAT I CAN LEARN FROM-

ATTENTION: SUBJECTS LOCATED.

GOOD.

AND WHAT WILL YOU FINE FOLKS TEACH ME TODAY?

NO, I AM *NOT* OVERREACTING. AND YES, MIKEY, YOUR FEET *DO* STINK!

AND I DON'T SEE WHY THEY'RE SHOVED IN MY FACE EVERY NIGHT—

SHOVED?

—WHEN WE COULD JUST AS EASILY ROTATE SEATS, SO THAT—

HEY, IT'S NOT MY FAULT THE NEUTRINOS LIKE ME BEST.

ENOUGH!

WE'RE ALL TIRED OF BEING COOPED UP IN THE HOT ROD. BELIEVE ME, YOU'RE GETTING ON MY NERVES *TOO*. BUT WHAT WE'RE DOING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN—THAN PETTY SQUABBLES. OKAY?

FUGITOID SAID THIS PLANET HAS *EMOTION-BASED PHYSICS*—

WHATEVER *THAT* MEANS.

—AND THAT MEANS WE NEED TO *CALM DOWN.*

AT LEAST UNTIL WE FIGURE OUT WHAT IT ACTUALLY MEANS.

NOW LET'S *FOCUS*. THERE'S AN IMPORTANT *WITNESS* AGAINST KRANG ON THIS PLANET—AND WE *NEED* TO FIND HIM. HE COULD BE ANYWH—

HE'S IN THAT CAVE.

FUGITOID SAID THESE THINGS ARE *EMPATHIC.* THEY CAN SENSE YOUR EMOTIONS—

GREAT, MORE *EMOTIONS* TALK.

—AND CHANGE COLORS, BASED ON THEM.

YOU MEAN THE WAY *THAT THING* JUST CHANGED COLORS?

EEEEEE!

WAIT! *NO!*

FOLLOW THE, *UH*—

THE *BOUNCING BALL!*

B'EEN... I'M LEONARDO. AND THESE ARE MY BROTHERS.

PLEASE JUST LEAVE ME ALONE.

WE... WE'RE HERE TO TAKE YOU TO THE PLANET NEUTRINO. SO YOU CAN TESTIFY IN THE *TRIAL AGAINST KRANG.*

WHAT? I—I WON'T! I CAN'T!

AND I WON'T!

WE KNOW IT'S A LOT TO ASK. BUT THINK OF ALL KRANG HAS DONE. TO YOU. TO YOUR PEOPLE. TO THE WHOLE *DIMENSION.*

YOU CAN HELP *STOP* HIM FROM *EVER* DOING THAT AGAIN.

I...

I DON'T KNOW. I NEED TO—

LOOK OUT!

THOSE CREATURES ARE ASSASSINS!

WHAT? NO! *HE'S* THE ASSASSIN!

YEAH! AND WE'RE THE GLORIOUS HEROES OF THE KRANG WAR!

THEN YOU ADMIT YOU FOUGHT ALONGSIDE KRANG IN HIS WAR?

THAT'S NOT! HE'S—

HE'S *TWISTING* THINGS AROUND! TRYING TO CONFUSE YOU! BESIDES, IF WE WERE ASSASSINS, WHY HAVEN'T WE KILLED YOU *ALREADY?*

RAPH, THAT'S—THAT'S PROBABLY NOT THE MOST COMFORTING—

BECAUSE YOU *CAN'T!* MY PEOPLE'S EMPATHIC CONNECTION MAKES US NEARLY INVULNERABLE. UNLESS WE LEAVE THE PLANET.

LIKE YOU WERE TRYING TO *CONVINCE ME TO DO!*

I HAD NO IDEA! THESE ASSASSINS TRULY ARE DEVIOUS SORTS.

WE *DIDN'T* KNOW, B'EEN GO. BUT EVEN SO, MY BROTHERS SPEAK THE TRUTH.

YOU HAVE TO COME WITH US! YOU—YOU *HAVE* TO, OR—

NO—YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING YOU DON'T WISH TO DO. I KNOW YOU ARE CONFUSED AND KNOW NOT WHOM TO BELIEVE.

BUT EVEN IF YOU DON'T TRUST ME—DON'T TRUST THEM EITHER!

EXCELLENT CHOICE.

B'EEN! WAIT!

YOU DON'T UNDER—

BOOM

"EVEN IF YOU DON'T TRUST ME, DON'T TRUST THEM EITHER." *MAN,* THAT WAS A GOOD LINE. WHY DIDN'T WE THINK OF THAT?

BECAUSE WE'RE NOT *DIABOLICAL.*

THAT WAS FOOLISH OF THEM. SENDING SUCH WILD, EMOTIONAL BEASTS TO ASSASSINATE AN EMPATH!

THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME. WHILE BEING SO... COMFORTINGLY EVEN-KEELED.

EMOTIONS HAVE NO PLACE IN MY LINE OF WORK.

YOUR LINE OF WORK?

YOU KNOW... BEING A HERO. THE HERO PROFESSION.

HEROING.

AND BECAUSE I'M A HEROIC HERO, I'M AFRAID I HAVE TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH. THE WARLORD KRANG REALLY IS ON TRIAL. AND WE REALLY DO NEED YOUR TESTIMONY.

THOSE ASSASSINS USED THAT NUGGET OF TRUTH TO GAIN YOUR TRUST. TO MANIPULATE YOU. I DON'T KNOW WHAT KRANG DID TO YOU, BUT-

YOU'RE RIGHT.

YOU *DON'T.*

"MY PEOPLE SPENT MILLENNIA IN PEACEFUL ISOLATION. UNTIL AN UTROM *SCOUTING SHIP* ARRIVED.

"BEFORE LONG, KRANG DISCOVERED OUR UNIQUE ABILITY. HE ENSLAVED US, AND USED US IN HIS INTERROGATION CHAMBERS.

"EVALUATING PRISONERS' EMOTIONAL STATES, IN MID-TORTURE.

"THE THINGS WE SAW... THE THINGS WE WERE *PART* OF...

"...BUT I SURVIVED.

"I *ALONE* SURVIVED.

"NOW I'M AN OUTCAST AMONG MY PEOPLE. IT'S TOO... *DIFFICULT* FOR OTHER EMPATHS TO BE AROUND SO MUCH TRAUMA. SOMEONE SO *BROKEN*."

I UNDERSTAND. I'LL MAKE SURE YOU'RE SAFE. AND THEN—

AND THEN YOU'LL *TAKE ME* TO THIS *TRIAL*.

NO. WE DON'T HAVE *TIME* FOR TRIAL AND ERROR. WE JUST NEED TO FIND A WAY TO CREATE MORE FORCE. OR BUILD A STRONGER FULCRUM THAN MY BO STAFF.

OR REACH THE HOT ROD, WHICH I STILL CAN'T DO THROUGH ALL THIS ROCK.

WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS BREAK THROUGH THAT WALL.

BEFORE THIS WHOLE PLACE *CAVES IN!*

MIKEY IS *RIGHT.* WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE.

YES!

AND *STOP* THAT HOODED *FREAK.*

OH, COME ON. SOME OF OUR BEST FRIENDS ARE *MUCH* BIGGER—

HE *PLAYED* US!

THOOOOM

WE'RE *FREE!*

YAHOOOOOOO!

UH... GUYS?

I THINK I JUST FIGURED OUT WHAT "EMOTION-BASED PHYSICS" MEANS.

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TEA, B'EEN?

OH. NO, THAT'S... THAT'S ALL RIGHT.

YOU SURE DO HAVE A LOT OF WEAPONS. AND BOOKS ON... HOW TO USE THEM.

YES. WELL. HEROING IS A DANGEROUS PROFESSION.

RIGHT. OF COURSE.

AND... AND HOW LONG A TRIP WILL THIS BE?

OH...

NOT LONG AT ALL. IN FACT, I THINK YOU'LL BE SHOCKED TO DISCOVER JUST HOW CLOSE YOU ARE TO THE END OF YOUR JOURNEY.

CLUNK

OH, NO.

GOOD JOB, GUYS!

JUST FOCUS ON THINGS THAT MAKE YOU ANGRY!

OR HAPPY! OR—

RED CURRY PIZZA! WITH DOUBLE EGGPLANT AND *EXTRA CHEESE!*

I DON'T THINK SO.

THERE IT IS!

WE'RE TOO LATE!

MIKEY'S STINKY FEET!

YOU—YOU CAN'T DO THIS! YOU CAN'T!

WELL, THAT'S OBVIOUSLY NOT TRUE.

I SHOULD PROBABLY THANK YOU, B'EEN.

MY PROFESSION—MY ACTUAL PROFESSION—DOESN'T USUALLY REQUIRE THIS LEVEL OF SUBTLE DECEIT.

I'VE LEARNED A LOT FROM THE EXPERIENCE. GAINED NEW SKILLS. IMPROVED MY CRAFT. I HOPE THAT BRINGS YOU COMFORT, AS YOU—

IT DOESN'T!

AH. AH, WELL.

THUNK

YOU SHOULD NEVER ENTER WHERE YOU'RE NOT INVITED.

NO!

COUGH COUGH

FACE IT, EARTHLING. THIS ONE IS MINE.

YOU'VE LOST THIS ROUND OF OUR LITTLE GAME.

I OUTWITTED YOU. OUTMANEUVERED YOU.

I MADE NO MISTAKES.

SURE YOU DID.

YOU *REALLY* TICKED US OFF!

HONESTLY, GENTLEMEN. WE'VE DONE THIS DANCE BEFORE.

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN DEFEAT ME IN AN OPEN FIELD OF COMBAT?

BECAUSE THIS PLANET TAPS INTO OUR EMOTIONS!

AND MAKES US STRONGER THAN EVER BE—

MIKEY, COULD WE *NOT* GIVE AWAY OUR STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE?

AH. SO THAT'S HOW YOU WERE ABLE TO TEAR MY SHIP APART. NO MATTER.

STRONG OR NOT, YOU STILL CAN'T DEFEAT—

—WHAT YOU CANNOT HIT!

SEE, LEO?

HE'S GIVING AWAY *HIS* STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE, TOO!

YES, BUT IN MY CASE IT DOESN'T MATTER.

BECAUSE YOU'RE REALLY JUST NOT VERY GOOD AT THIS.

WHEREAS I CAN GO ALL—

CRACK

WELL. THAT TAKES CARE OF THAT.

FOR NOW. FOR THIS PLANET. UNTIL HE REPAIRS HIS SHIP.

JUST LET ME HAVE MY MOMENT, DUDE.

B'EEN... I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT, BUT... THE TRIAL OF KRANG. IT'S *VERY* IMPORTANT THAT YOU—

I KNOW.

AND I'M READY TO DO MY PART.

OH. GOOD.

BECAUSE OUR RIDE IS HERE.

AND... AND HOW MANY WEAPONS WILL BE ON THIS SHIP?

A LOT.

BUT NONE OF THEM WILL BE POINTED AT YOU.

I MUST SAY, I WAS INCREDIBLY IMPRESSED BY YOUR PERFORMANCE.

AMONG MY KIND, SUCH STRONG EMOTIONS ARE DISPLAYED ONLY BY THOSE ON THE CUSP OF FULL MATURITY.

AT A TIME WHEN THEIR ORBS ARE RAPIDLY CHANGING AND THEIR HORMONES ARE RUNNING AMOK.

YOU MEAN LIKE... *TEENAGERS?*

DIBS ON THE SAME SEAT!

I DON'T *THINK* SO, MIKEY!

YEAH. WE... WE ARE, ACTUALLY... *UH...*

OUR *ORBS ARE RAPIDLY CHANGING.*

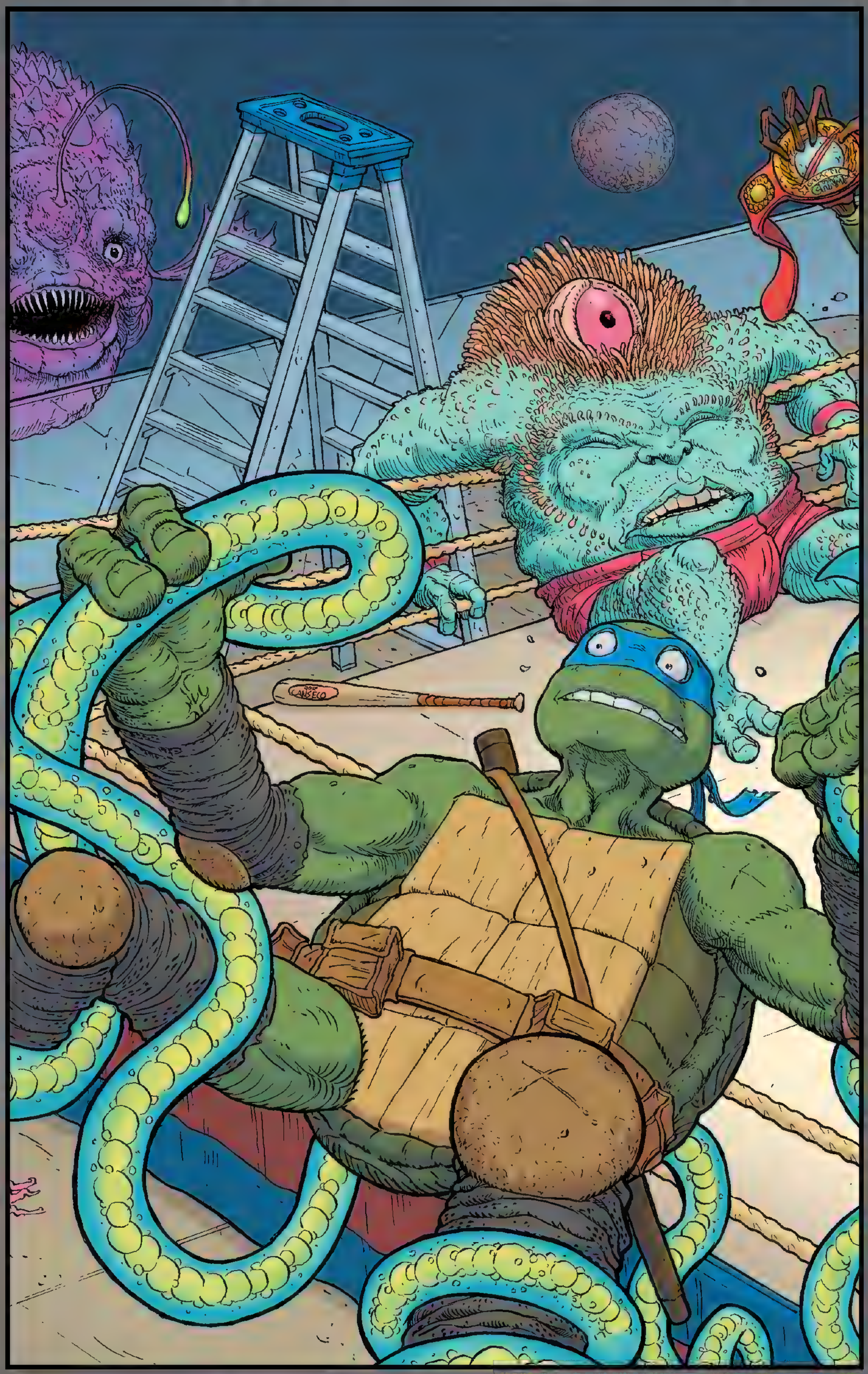
THAT EXPLAINS SO, *SO* MUCH.

UGGGHH...

AH, WELL.

NO USE GETTING UPSET OVER IT.

art by PABLO TUNICA



DIMENSION X #2

art by NICK PITARRA
colors by CHRIS CHUCKRY

I DON'T SEE THE POINT ANYMORE, LEO. KRANG'S JUST GOING TO GET AWAY WITH IT AGAIN.

I FEEL LIKE A SPOKE ON A DAMN WHEEL THAT NEVER STOPS TURNING. THE ONLY WAY THE WHEEL STOPS IS IF WE STOP.

LET DIMENSION X FIGURE ITSELF OUT ON ITS OWN.

DON'T SEE THE POINT? YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO STOP A MONSTER FROM INFLICTING HARM ON PEOPLE, AND YOU DON'T SEE THE POINT?

THE WHEEL KEEPS TURNING, WE PUT KRANG IN JAIL. THEN WE MOVE ON TO THE NEXT WORLD-CONQUERING JERK.

LEO, YOU HAVE TO SEE THIS. THIS PLANET... IT'S BEAUTIFUL.

SERIOUSLY, LEO, YOU GOTTA SEE THIS.

JUST GOING TO DISAPPOINT YOURSELF AGAIN.

WHOOOAAA.

SORRY, I'M NOT LIKE YOU, RAPH. THIS PLANET IS–

–REALLY SOMETHING.

WHAT IS THAT GLOW?

PERHAPS... AN ENDOTHERMIC ATMOS... PHERIC...

HEY GUYS, LOOK–

PULL UP! PULL UP!

FIVE YEARS AGO.

KRANG! NO! PLEASE!

PLEASE!

PLEASE! I SWEAR I TASTE *DISGUSTING!*

I HAVE ANOTHER MISSION FOR YOU.

THEN YOU SHALL HAVE ANOTHER SUCCESS.

THIS ONE IS DIFFERENT.

YOU HAVE PLEASED ME AGAIN, ANEMON. THESE ARGONIANS ARE THE ONLY THING MY LITTLE FLIPPY EATS.

ANOTHER TRIP TO THE *ZONE OF YOKO?*

NO, THIS MISSION WILL ONLY TAKE A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME BUT WILL SECURE OUR FUTURE TOGETHER.

MY LOYALTY HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABSOLUTE.

HAS IT? WORRY NOT, I JUST NEED INFORMATION.

THE HIDDEN TEMPLES OF AKEBONO.

I KNOW YOUR SPECIES STORES ITS FOOD RESERVES THERE. I NEED THE COORDINATES, ANEMON.

...SIR?

THE AMOUNT OF FOOD STORED THERE CAN FEED MY ARMIES ACROSS THE GALAXY.

BUT WHAT SHALL MY PEOPLE EAT?

IF THEY WANT TO EAT, THEY CAN BE SOLDIERS LIKE YOU.

BUT YOU PROMISED IF I BECAME YOUR LOYAL GUARD YOU'D SPARE MY HOME, MY PEOPLE!

WOULD YOU PREFER THEY BE PRISONERS, LIKE THE PATHETIC ARGONIANS?

NOW, THE *COORDINATES.*

20120915.

EVERY RELATIONSHIP MUST *EVOLVE*. EVEN OURS.

I KNOW YOU ARE LYING, ANEMON.

NOOO!

LOYALTY IS NEVER ABSOLUTE. I PREFER TO PREEMPT ANY BETRAYALS.

FROM SOLDIER TO PRISONER... TAKE HIM AWAY.

KRAK

YOU DISHONORABLE SCAG!

RAAARGH!

SLICE

SLASH

HE'S ESCAPING!

AHHHH!

LATER.

THIS IS THE WORST!

KRSH!

OH, NO... ARE YOU OKAY?

BE GONE FROM ME, CREATURE.

AREN'T YOU *HUNGRY?*

AREN'T YOU *THIRSTY?*

I CAN HELP YOU.

FOUR YEARS AGO.

IT'S BEEN SOME TIME, YOU'RE ALMOST FULLY HEALED, SUMO GUY.

WOW, YOU *SAVED* ME *AGAIN!*

DO YOU TRUST ME, EYE?

YOU BEAT THE CLOUD BEASTS AND I HELP YOU FARM. OF COURSE I DO, ANEMON!

DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT EVENTUALLY OUR RELATIONSHIP HAS TO *EVOLVE?*

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WHAT, WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?!*

LET ME GO!

"IT HAS BEEN MANY YEARS SINCE THEN.

"YOUR SHIP WAS THE FIRST SIGN OF LIFE, OUTSIDE OF THE WRETCHED CLOUD-BEASTS."

ANEMON, HOW COULD YOU ENSLAVE A DEFENSELESS CREATURE–

–NOT NOW, DON. ANEMON, KRANG DISHONORED YOU, YOU CAN FINALLY MAKE SURE HE NEVER BETRAYS ANOTHER!

JOIN US AND TESTIFY AGAINST HIM AT HIS TRIAL.

WHY SHOULD I HAVE ANY CARE TO IMPRISON KRANG?

IN LIFE, THERE IS NO HONOR, SIMPLY THE STRONG BEATING THE STRONG.

PFFF–COME ON, GUYS. THERE'S NO MIGHT IN THIS SUMO.

YOU INSOLENT GREEN TEENAGER! I CAN *DESTROY* YOU!

CAN YOU?

WITH EASE! EVEN BLIND, IT WOULD BE NO CHALLENGE.

IF YOU BEAT US ALL, YOU PROVE YOUR MIGHT AND NEED NOT CONFRONT KRANG.

IF ONE OF US BEATS YOU, THOUGH, YOU LEAVE THIS DEFENSELESS CREATURE BEHIND AND FACE YOUR OLD EMPLOYER.

FINE. WE SHALL BATTLE! TOMORROW, ONE FOR BREAKFAST. THE OTHER FOR LUNCH. THEN FINALLY, DINNER.

WE SHALL SEE YOU FOR BREAKFAST THEN, ANEMON.

SO THAT'S THE PLAN? RAPH WILL HANDLE BREAKFAST, DON FOR LUNCH, THEN ME.

WHATEVER, MAN. DON'T MATTER THE MEAL, I CAN BEAT HIM AT AN ALL-DAY BUFFET.

I GOTTA HELP THE NEUTRINOS GET THE ENGINES WORKING, SO TRY TO STALL HIM.

MIKEY, I GOT A SPECIAL MISSION FOR YOU.

YOU MAKE SOME AMAZING THREE-TOPPING MIKEY'S SPECIAL PIZZAS AND COME DINNERTIME, HE'LL BE TOO FULL TO MOVE.

MILK FROM THAT FISH-COW THING? GNARLY ALIEN VEGETABLES?!

THAT IS TOTALLY A MIKEY SPECIAL PIZZA MISSION. CAN DO, LEO.

BREAKFAST.

COME ON, RAPH! YOU'RE NOT EVEN TRYING.

LUNCH.

LEO, HE MUST'VE EATEN FORTY PIZZA EMPANADAS, HE'S NOT EVEN SLOWING DOWN!

SIGH.

POK!

DID HIS EYE JUST PROTECT ANEMON FROM THAT ATTACK?

I CAN'T DECIDE WHAT IS MORE SATISFYING, THESE MEALS OR THROWING YOU TURTLES AROUND!

UHHH—WHERE IS YOUR BROTHER WITH HIS SPECIAL DINNER? I WANT TO TRY HIS LATEST PIZZA INVENTION.

YOU SOUND A LOT MORE CHEERFUL SINCE WE ARRIVED. WHAT HAPPENED TO ***STONE-COLD*** ANEMON?

BON APPETIT!

THIS IS DELICIOUS! IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE EATEN LIKE THIS.

IF YOU LEAVE THIS PLANET, I CAN TAKE YOU SOMEWHERE THEY MAKE PIZZA ALL DAY AND NIGHT. IT'S CALLED ***NEW YORK CITY.***

THAT IS A TEMPTING OFFER... MAYBE I WILL... I THINK...

I THINK... I WILL ***NAP.***

NO CAN DO, ANEMON, WE GOT ONE LAST BATTLE.

Z Z Z

WAIT, ***NOW?*** B-BUT...

I'LL CATCH YOU OUTSIDE.

YOU GOT FIVE MINUTES OR YOU FORFEIT AND ARE COMING WITH US.

HA HA, YOU SILLY TURTLES.

YOU THOUGHT FEEDING ME WOULD GIVE YOU THE ADVANTAGE?

BUT I'VE NEVER FELT STRONGER. EATING IS *THE SUMO WAY!*

GUYS, LOOKS LIKE WE ARE GONNA HAVE TO DO PLAN B!

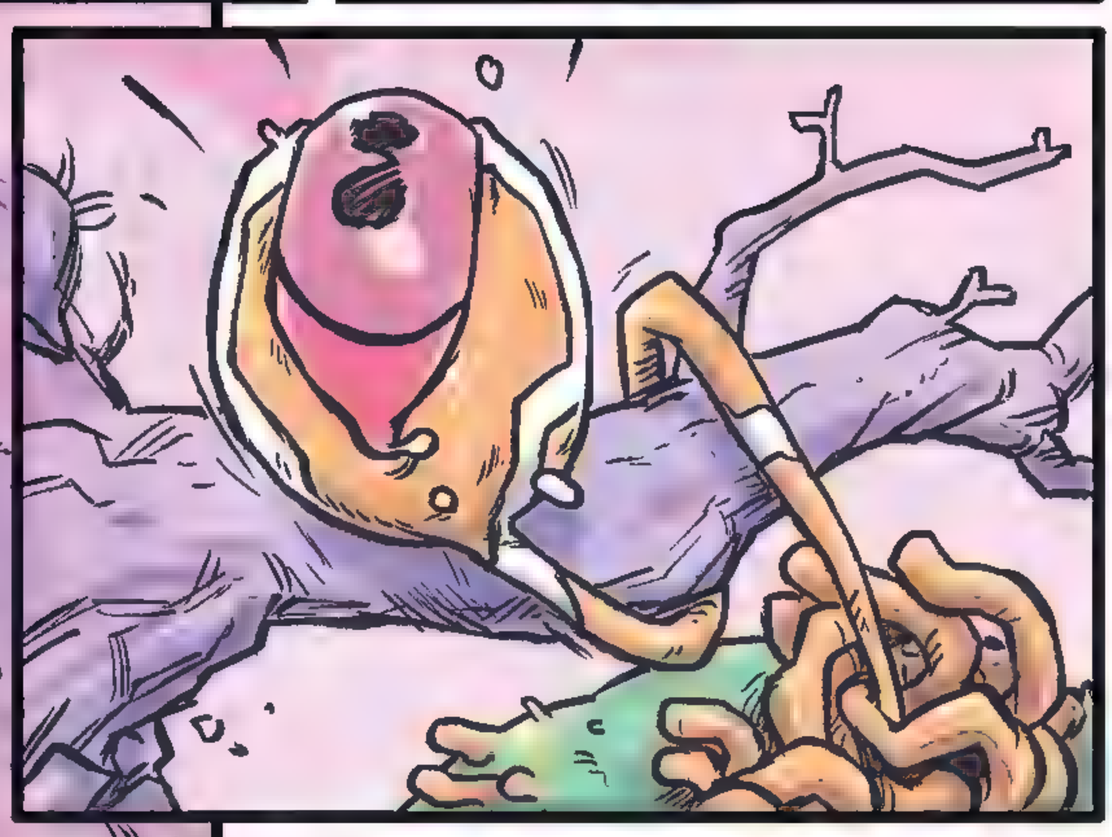
HE'S GOT THE STAMINA OF FOUR OF US NOW!

IF WE WORK TOGETHER, WE CAN EXHAUST HIM.

COME ON, ANIE! TIME TO BURN OFF SOME CALORIES!

=HUFF HUFF HUFF= STAY STILL =HUFF HUFF= BLUE TURTLE!

SMASH



POP!

THANKS, RAPH. I WAS STARTING TO THINK YOU DIDN'T CARE WHETHER WE WON OR LOST.

HEY, IF YOU'RE NOT AROUND, WHO'S GOING TO CARE ABOUT ME NOT CARING?

ROAR

ANOTHER CLOUD BEAST!

PLEASE! PLEASE! WHERE ARE YOU?! I CANNOT LIVE LIKE THIS! I *NEED* YOU!

I AM NO MIGHTY WARRIOR! PLEASE COME BACK TO ME! *PLEASE!*

HEY, SNAP OUT OF IT!

I NEED MY EYMO! I NEED MY EYMO! I CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT MY EYMO!

EYMO? C'MON, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE ANOTHER CLOUD BEAST GETS US.

UH. LEO.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.

YOU THINK ALL FOUR OF US CAN TAKE THIS THING?

I'M NOT THE SAME MAN WITHOUT MY EYMO!

IF WE COULDN'T BEAT ANEMON TILL NOW, HOW ARE WE GOING TO BEAT THIS THING?!

COME ON, YOU HAMBURGER, PROVE YOU'RE THE MIGHTY SUMO YOU SAID YOU ARE!

I DIDN'T SAY THAT, EYMO WAS JUST TRYING TO GAS ME UP.

I HAVE NO FIGHT LEFT IN ME. EYMO SAVED ME.

WHO THE–

–HECK IS–

ANEMON!

EYMO!

–EYMO?

I'M HERE!

TOGETHER– WE HAVE PLENTY OF FIGHT!

YOU WILL NOT BE–

RUDE TO MY–

–GUESTS!

MY NAME IS *EYMO*. I AM THE ONE WHO BOASTS AND MAKES A BIG SHOW OF BEING A MIGHTY SUMO. I'VE BEEN PLAYING THE PART OF HIS MOUTH AND HIS EYES.

ANEMON WAS BLIND WHEN HE GOT HERE, BUT WORSE, THE GUILT OF WHAT HE DID TO HIS PLANET AND HIS PEOPLE CRUSHED HIM.

IF HE NEVER AFFILIATED WITH KRANG, HIS PEOPLE WOULD STILL BE ALIVE TODAY.

ANEMON COULD NEVER FORGIVE HIMSELF. HE WAS DEPRESSED, AND HIS WILL TO LIVE WAS FADING DRASTICALLY.

I LET HIM SPEAK FOR ME, I WAS TOO ASHAMED. I DID NOT WANT TO LIVE ANY LONGER, BUT EYMO SHOWED ME HOW TO CONTINUE.

I WANTED YOU TO BE SCARED, SO I TOLD YOU I WAS HIS PRISONER. BUT THE TRUTH IS...

COME ON, YOU BIG LUMP! YOU'LL BE *EATEN ALIVE!*

I HAVE BEEN DEFEATED, ONCE AGAIN.

FIRST KRANG, NOW YOU TURTLES.

I'M THE LAST OF MY KIND, AND HISTORY WILL REMEMBER THAT I BETRAYED MY PEOPLE AND DISHONORED ALL OF THEM. WHAT IS THE POINT?

I USED TO THINK A LOT OF THINGS WERE POINTLESS TOO, ANEMON.

AND YOU HAVE EVERY REASON TO NOT WANT TO LEAVE. YOU THINK ALL YOU ENJOYED, EATING, FIGHTING, FARMING, ARE THINGS OF THE PAST.

BUT LOOK AT EVERYTHING YOU DID IN THE PAST FEW DAYS. FIGHTING THE CLOUD BEASTS, EATING PIZZAS, AND FARMING WITH EYMO. THAT'S A SUMO'S LIFE.

AND YOU'RE STILL LIVING IT. YOU'RE THE LAST LINK TO THIS WORLD, AND YOU'RE KEEPING THE PEOPLE OF AKEBONO ALIVE EVERYDAY WITH DIGNITY.

YOUR EYES MAY BE DAMAGED, BUT YOU'RE NOT BLIND, CAN'T YOU SEE THAT THE LIFE YOU LOVED IS STILL AROUND YOU?

BUT WHAT OF EYMO, IF I LEAVE THIS PLANET I WILL HAVE TO LEAVE HIM BEHIND.

THAT'S NOT TRUE, I'D LOVE TO GET OFF THIS ROCK! I'M TIRED OF CLOUD BEASTS SCARING ME MY WHOLE LIFE!

REALLY?! YESSSSSS!

...I WILL BE A WITNESS AGAINST KRANG!

NOT FOR THE FAMILY I LOST, BUT FOR THE FAMILY I GAINED.

LET'S GO, RAPH. ON TO THE NEXT ONE?

KEEP ROLLIN' ROLLIN' ROLLIN'.

ONE HOUR LATER.

PIZZA'S STILL WARM. I MUST HAVE JUST MISSED THEM.

WHAT GOOD IS A BLIND WITNESS, ANYWAY? KIND OF DEFEATS THE POINT.

art by MICHAEL DIALYNAS

art by NICK PITARRA
colors by CHRIS CHUCKRY

DIMENSION X #3

DIMENSION X. OBVIOUSLY.

ANYTHING YOU CAN TELL US ABOUT THE NEXT *WITNESS*, PROFESSOR HONEYCUTT?

HE'S A LITTLE... **UNUSUAL.** EVEN BY **DIMENSION X** STANDARDS.

WAIT... IS HE A—

YES, AS A MATTER OF FACT.

HE'S THE **CO-OWNER** OF A BUSINESS THAT'S... RATHER **VIOLENT.**

BUT... HOW DOES HIS BODY EVEN...?

HOW *FAR OUT* ARE WE?

WE'RE ALL *TOTALLY* FAR OUT, DADDY-O. BUT IT'S *RIGHT* UP *AHEAD.*

AW, MAN...

ARE YOU *KIDDING* ME?

DUDE, ARE *YOU* KIDDING *ME?!* THIS IS *TOTALLY* AWESOME!

THIS IS THE *BEST* DAY OF MY *LIFE...*

GALACTIC WRESTLING FEDERATION PRESENTS
GRAPPLEGANZA!
AN OVER-THE-TOP-ROPE BATTLE ROYAL!
PROMOTED BY STUMP & SLING
CRYIN' HOUND
IWF WORLD CHAMPION
YOUR COMMENTATORS, STUMP & SLING!
VS
ENTERPRISES
ENTRAX THE EXECUTIONER
STUMP & SLING!
THE IWF WOMEN'S DIVISION!
...WE'RE GOING TO SEE WRESTLING!

WHOA! WHAT'S *YOUR* RING NAME?

PARDON ME?

YOUR *RING NAME*. YOU'RE A *WRESTLER*, RIGHT?

OH, *HEAVENS* NO. I'M A *MANAGER*. PLEASE MEET MY *CLIENT*:

MANFRED MANOS III!

NINJA GIMMICK'S A LITTLE *TIRED*, BUT YOU'VE GOT *GREAT* HANDS.

WANNA *SPAR?*

NAW, DUDE, I'M... I'M *COOL*.

MIKEY, STICK WITH *US*.

LOOK AT 'EM. GETTING READY TO GO PLAY *PRETEND*.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "*PRETEND?*"

WE NEED TO FIND OUR *WITNESS*. BEFORE *HAKK-R* DOES.

LOOKS LIKE OUR *WITNESS* HAS FOUND *US*.

GREETINGS! AND *WELCOME*...

...TO *STUMP* *ASTEROID!*

YOU MUST BE *JOURNALISTS!* HERE TO DO A *STORY* ON ME, *STUMP*, IWF'S PROUD *OWNER!*

CO-OWNER. I'M HIS PARTNER, *SLING.*

WHAT? NO. WE'RE HERE TO *ESCORT* YOU *TO PLANET NEUTRINO.*

FOR A *TRIAL.*

WHAT?! I WAS *ACQUITTED!*

WE PAID THAT LAWYER A *FORTUNE!*

YOU'RE NOT ON TRIAL, *KRANG* IS. AND WE NEED YOUR *TESTIMONY.*

WHY WOULD *I* TESTIFY?

I'VE GOT *NOTHING* AGAINST *KRANG.*

BUT HE *CLEAR-CUT* YOUR ENTIRE PLANET!

IT'S NOTHING BUT UNINHABITABLE *DESERT* NOW!

EXACTLY! AND IT WAS *KRANG'S* VERY GENEROUS OFFER FOR OUR PLANET'S *LUMBER RIGHTS* THAT *FINANCED* IT ALL!

WHY DO YOU THINK WE BUILT THE STADIUM *HERE?*

...ARE YOU *TELLING* ME THAT YOU WERE *IN* ON IT?!

YOU LET *BRAINS-FOR-BRAINS* DESTROY YOUR *ENTIRE* PLANET?

WELL, I GOT *PAID* OF COURSE.

WAITAMINUTE...

ARE YOU *SURE* WE NEED ALL *FIVE* WITNESSES?

CAN'T WE LET *HAKK-R* HAVE THIS ONE?

HAKK-R IS KRANG'S CYBERNETIC *ASSASSIN*. HE HAS DESIGNS ON CLEAR-CUTTING *YOU*...

...UNLESS YOU ALLOW US TO *ESCORT* YOU TO *PLANET NEUTRINO*.

BUT... IT'S *GRAPPLEGANZA*! I CAN'T LEAVE *NOW*! I'M THE *COLOR COMMENTATOR*!

WHAT'S A *HAKK-R*?

YOU *SEE*?! HE WAS *IN* ON IT! AND HE DOESN'T EVEN *WANT* TO GET SAVED!

RAPH...

I SHOULD TURN HIM INTO *MULCH* MYSELF!

YOU *KNOW*...

...YOU HAVE A *DARK... ANGRY* CHARISMA.

PERHAPS WE CAN HELP *EACH OTHER*?

AND *STUMP* COULD LEAVE AFTER *GRAPPLEGANZA*.

YOU'D FACE OUR *CHALLENGER* IN THE OPENING MATCH. YOU'D *LOSE*, BUT EVERYONE *STARTS* SOMEWHERE.

I DON'T THINK IT'S A *BAD* DEAL.

BECAUSE *I'M* THE ONE THAT HAS TO *PLAY-FIGHT* SOME *FREAK*!

IT'S JUST ONE MATCH. I NEED YOU TO BE A *TEAM PLAYER*.

CAN I BE YOUR *MANAGER*?! *PLEASE*?!

JUST *SIGN* AND *INITIAL* AND WE'LL FIND YOU A *BETTER* OUTFIT!

UGH... FINE.

WAIT... HOW DO THEY KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO *LOSE*?

MIKEY...

I DUNNO, RAPH. I THINK IT LOOKS *COOL!*

MYSTERIOUS, YOU KNOW?

WELL, AT LEAST I'M NOT THE *DUMBEST*-LOOKING GUY IN THE RING.

YOU DARE TO INSULT... *ANTRAX?!*

HEY... *NNNGH*... GO *EASY*, WOULDJA?

RAPH! WATCH OUT FOR HIS OTHER *ARMS!*

MIKEY, WOULD YOU *RELAX?*

THE WHOLE THING'S *FAKE!*

FAKE...?

FAKE?

FAKE?!

YOU THINK THIS IS *FAKE?* A *JOKE?*

HEY... *ANTRAX!* HOLD ON, I THOUGHT WE WERE—

LET'S SEE WHO'S *LAUGHING* AFTER YOU SUFFER THE *FALL* OF...

...ANTRAX THE EXECUTIONER'S BURNING AXE!

THE *BURNING AXE!* NO ONE'S *EVER* COME BACK FROM IT!

ANTRAX WILL GO INTO HIS *IWF CHAMPIONSHIP* AS AN *UNDEFEATED* COMPETITOR!

MUST... MUST HAVE BEEN... A *FLUKE...*

RAPH, WAKE *UP!* YOU HAVE TO DO SOMETHING!

PIZZ

PIZZ

RAPHAEEEL...!

KRAKT

COUNT HIM!

BUT... BUT... THE *FINISH*...

DO IT!

ONE... TWO... *THREE!*

SEE? DIDN'T I *TELL* YOU?

DIDN'T I *TELL* YOU THAT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO *LOSE?!* ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS *LAY* THERE!

HE GOT ROUGH WITH *ME!* AND I BARELY EVEN *TOUCHED* HIM!

HEY! EVERYONE JUST *CALM DOWN* FOR A SECOND!

CALM DOWN? CALM *DOWN?!* HOW CAN I *CALM DOWN* WHEN YOU'VE *RUINED* GRAPPLEGANZA!

ANTRAX WAS *UNDEFEATED!* HE WAS SUPPOSED TO FACE *CRYIN' HOUN'* IN THE MAIN EVENT!

WHAT THE...

BUT YOU KNOCKED HIM *CLEAN* OUT! WHO KNOWS WHEN HE'LL *WAKE UP!*

AND EVEN WHEN HE *DOES...*

...HE'LL BE *NOBODY!* BECAUSE HE *LOST* TO A *NOBODY!*

A *NOBODY?!* I'M GONNA *CARVE* HIM INTO A—

UHM, GUYS...?

LATER, MIKEY!

LISTEN... *STUMP*. I'M *SORRY* ABOUT THE OPENING MATCH, BUT WHAT'S DONE IS *DONE*.

WE'LL NEED TO LEAVE *IMMEDIATELY* AFTER *GRAPPLEGANZA*.

NOT A *CHANCE!*

BUT IF YOU DON'T COME *WITH* US, THERE'S NO WAY FOR US TO *PROTECT* YOU.

YOU'VE *RUINED* GRAPPLEGANZA. I FEEL LIKE I'VE *ALREADY* DIED.

HOW CAN WE *FIX* IT? WE'LL DO *WHATEVER* WE CAN.

WELL, IN *THAT* CASE... I COULD USE *YOU TWO* IN OUR *NEW* GRAPPLEGANZA *MAIN EVENT!*

WELL, I *REALLY* DON'T THINK—

HOUN', YOU GOT THOSE *CONTRACTS?*

RIGHT *HERE*, BOSSMAN.

I DON'T THINK IT'S A *BAD* DEAL, GUYS.

BUT *WAIT*... HOW DO THEY *KNOW* YOU'LL *LOSE?*

PERFECT! YOU TWO WILL CHALLENGE FOR THE *TAG TEAM TITLES* AGAINST *CRYIN' HOUN'* AND A ROOKIE HE'LL... *"PICK"* OUT OF THE AUDIENCE.

WITH *HOUN'* AND OUR *NEW STAR* GETTING THE WIN, OF *COURSE!*

MIKEY...

IT'S TIME FOR OUR *MAIN EVENT*, AND WE'VE GOT SOMETHING *SPECIAL* FOR YOU FOLKS!

DUE TO ANTRAX'S *SHOCKING* DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF THAT *MYSTERIOUS* AND *IRRITABLE* BLACK-CLAD WARRIOR...

...IWF CHAMPION *CRYIN' HOUN'* WILL DEFEND THE *TAG TITLES* IN AN *ANYTHING GOES* TAG MATCH AGAINST THE *DEBUTING* TEAM OF...

EL SAMURAI AND *SUPERSTAR DONNY!*

I DON'T *LIKE* THIS...

I THINK WE LOOK PRETTY *SPIFFY!*

BUT OF *COURSE*, HE WON'T BE FACING THEM *ALONE*, WILL HE, STUMP?

ABSOLUTELY *NOT!* IN FACT, THE CHAMP IS *ALREADY* SEARCHING FOR HIS PARTNER!

SO MANY *GOOD LOOKIN'* FANS OUT THERE... IT BRINGS A *TEAR* TO MY EYE! BUT ONLY *ONE* CAN STEP INTO THE RING WITH THE *CRYIN' HOUN'!*

WHY... I THINK I *SPY* WITH MY CRYIN' *EYE*... THE PERFECT *SPECIMEN!*

SON, IF YOU'RE FEELING *UP* TO IT, WHY DON'T YOU—

WHAT IN *TARNATION?!*

FOOOOOOO

WE'VE WASTED TOO MUCH *TIME!*

WELL, *ACTUALLY*... THE *BUILD-UP* AND *ORATORICAL* EXERCISES ARE *ALMOST* AS IMPORTANT AS THE MATCH—

NO, *LOOK!* IT'S...

...HAKK-R!

NORMALLY THIS WOULD BE BENEATH ME, BUT I'VE MADE AN EXCEPTION...

...FOR YOU.

IT'S *HIM!* THE *ASSASSIN!* RING THE *BELL!* START THE *MATCH!*

DING DING DING DING

THEY SAID *ANYTHING GOES,* RIGHT?

YES, THAT *WAS* THE STIPULATION!

EL SAMURAI & SUPERSTAR DONNIE HAVE TEAMED UP ON THE ROOKIE!

ARGH! OF COURSE YOU TURTLES ARE HERE! BUT SINCE YOU ARE...

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THE ROOKIE'S GOT SOME TRICKS UP HIS SLEEVE, SLING! OUR CHAMPION SURE KNOWS HOW TO PICK 'EM!

WAIT... CRYIN' HOUN' CHOSE HAKK-R AS HIS PARTNER!? WHAT ARE THE ODDS?!

MIKEY...

COME ON, NOW! REACH ONE OF THEM LITTLE TENTACLES BACK HERE AND TAG ME IN!

...LET'S GIVE THESE PEOPLE A LITTLE SHOW.

THE CRYIN' HOUN' DON'T TAKE KINDLY TO BEING LEFT OUT.

DON'T YOU KNOW I'M THE *STAR* OF THIS HERE SHOW, BOY?

AND WHAT ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?

???

I'M THE *DOGGONE* INTERGALACTIC WRESTLING FEDERATION *HEAVYWEIGHT*—

YOU KNOW WHAT?

I DON'T CARE.

TWHACK

ATTACK *ME?*

YOU AIN'T BEEN HERE FOR A CUP OF *COFFEE,* SON!

IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE *IWF FANS* CAN BELIEVE IT EITHER!

KA-THOOM

WHY... I CAN'T BELIEVE MY *EYES!* CRYIN' HOUN' HAS *TURNED* ON HIS PARTNER!

RAPH! MIKEY! GET IN HERE AND *HELP* US!

BUT IT... IT'S JUST NOT *FAIR!*

CRYIN' HOUN' WAS *SUPPOSED* TO BE HAKK-R'S *PARTNER!*

YEAH, BUT *OUR* PARTNERS ARE IN *TROUBLE.* AND *BESIDES...*

...DON'T YOU *WANT* TO GET IN THE *RING?*

HEY, *HAKK-R!*

OH, COME ON...

COWABUNGA!

AND *YOU* DUDES THOUGHT THAT WATCHING *WRESTLING*...

NOW IT LOOKS LIKE THEIR *MANAGER* IS GETTING INVOLVED! IT'S *CHAOS* IN THERE!

...WAS A *WASTE* OF *TIME!*

THIS IS... RIDICULOUS!

WHILE HAKK-R'S FORM IS ***MALLEABLE***, HE ALWAYS RETAINS ***SOME*** CORE STRUCTURE...

...IF I CAN JUST FIND A WAY TO ***TARGET*** IT...

WHAT ARE YOU—

...GOT IT!

WHOA!

FOOOOOM

BOOOOOOOO!

THE IWF FANS ***DON'T*** LOOK PLEASED, STUMP! THEY'RE DEMANDING AN ***EXPLANATION*** FOR ***CRYIN' HOUN'S*** ACTIONS!

GRRAAAH!

I GIVE UP! I GIVE UP!

AND THAT'S ***IT!*** THE ***LOCAL COMPETITOR*** HAS TAPPED OUT TO ***SUPERSTAR DONNIE!***

CAN YOU ***HEAR*** ME? IS THIS THING ***ON?***

LISTEN ***UP***, BECAUSE I'M ABOUT TO ***EXPLAIN...***

DING DING DING

WHAT YOU *CRETINS* AND *MOUTH-BREATHERS* ARE TOO *STUPID* TO UNDERSTAND!

YOU'RE TOO *SIMPLE* TO REALIZE THAT YOU'VE WITNESSED SOMETHING *SPECTACULAR!*

THE *DEBUT* OF THE MOST *DOMINANT* STABLE IN IWF *HISTORY*...

BOOOOOOOO!

...MY STUMP-THUMPERS!

THAT'S *RIGHT!* I'M *SICK* OF YOU PEOPLE AND YOUR *FICKLE* AFFECTIONS! AND YOU KNOW WHO *ELSE* IS TOO?!

YOUR *PRECIOUS* CHAMPION, *CRYIN' HOUN'!*

BOOOOOOOO!

THIS... *DOESN'T* LOOK GOOD.

YA *THINK?*

SO I'M TAKING *CRYIN' HOUN'*, MY *STUMP-THUMPERS*, THE TAG TITLES *AND* THE *HEAVYWEIGHT* TITLE TO A MORE *SOPHISTICATED* ASTEROID!

OKAY! YOU SAID YOU HAD A WAY *OUT* OF HERE, *RIGHT?*

BONK!

SHORTLY...

THAT WENT GREAT!

ARE YOU *NUTS?* WE WERE ALMOST *KILLED* GETTING OUT OF THERE!

EXACTLY! THAT'S HOW YOU KNOW IT'S A *HOT ANGLE!*

CRYIN' HOUN'S *MERCHANDISE* SALES WERE SLOWING DOWN ANYWAY. IT WAS TIME FOR A *CHANGE.*

WE'LL KEEP HIM *AWAY* WHILE SLING BUILDS *ANTRAX* BACK UP AS A RECENTLY HUMBLED *FAN-FAVORITE.*

THEN WE'LL BRING HOUN' BACK TO *DROP* THE TITLE IN A *MASSIVE* MAIN EVENT!

ARE YOU *FOLLOWING* THIS?

NOT *REALLY.*

UHM... MR. HOUN'? ARE YOU *REALLY* GOING TO LOSE THE TITLE?

DON'T *LISTEN* TO 'EM, KID. ANTRAX COULD *NEVER* BEAT THE CRYIN' HOUN'.

I *KNEW* IT!

YOU *KNOW...* IT JUST *OCCURRED* TO ME...

...MY NEW *TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS* WILL ALSO NEED TO COME BACK AND DROP *THEIR* TITLES!

YEAH... I DON'T THINK WE'RE *INTERESTED.*

YOU MIGHT NOT BE *INTERESTED,* BUT...

...YOU'RE BOTH *CONTRACTUALLY* OBLIGATED.

DON'T *WORRY,* IT'LL BE A *HUGE* SHOW. AND YOU'LL GET A CUT OF THE GATE. AFTER *COSTS,* OF COURSE.

STUMP, *DUDE!*

I THINK YOU'RE *UNDERESTIMATING* THE *STUMP-THUMPERS!* HOW COULD WE *LOSE?!*

IT'S *FAKE,* MIKEY! F-A-K-E! THE WHOLE *THING'S—*

HEY!

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!

AGGGH! GET HIM *AWAY* FROM ME!

I'LL SHOW *YOU* FAKE, BOY!

art by KHARY RANDOLPH

DIMENSION X #4

art by NICK PITARRA
colors by CHRIS CHUCKRY

PALMADISE CITY.

HOLY MOLEY, THIS PLACE IS *BONKERS!*

LOOK AT IT! IT'S LIKE MY EYES DON'T KNOW WHERE TO GO. THIS IS *AWESOME.*

TOTALLY IS. BUT OUR EYES SHOULD BE ON ONE THING, MIKEY— FINDING OUR NEXT WITNESS FOR KRANG'S TRIAL.

A TASK THAT MAY PROVE TO BE CHALLENGING, LEONARDO.

"NOT ONLY IS PALMADISE THE MOST DENSE PLANET IN THE SYSTEM...

"...IT'S ALSO THE **MOST DANGEROUS.**

"AN ENTIRE PLANET WITH MONEY AS ITS CORE FOUNDATION BREEDS A CERTAIN LESS-THAN-SAVORY REPUTATION.

"YOUR TARGET IS MORE ELUSIVE THAN MOST. NOT A LOT IS KNOWN ABOUT HIM...

"...AND WHAT **IS** KNOWN IS QUESTIONABLE.

"HE'S BECOME A BIT OF A LEGEND THROUGHOUT SEVERAL SYSTEMS.

"GENTLEMEN, I WOULD PROCEED WITH CAUTION... AND A LITTLE LUCK WOULDN'T HURT.

"YOU WILL MOST CERTAINLY NEED IT."

WE'VE GOT A NICE WINDOW TO GET IN AND OUT OF HERE WHILE THE NEUTRINOS PICK UP SUPPLIES... BUT MAN, WHERE DO WE EVEN START?

OKAY, SO— BASED ON THE CITY'S INFRASTRUCTURE, I'VE EXTRAPOLATED OUR CHANCES FOR SUCCESS IF WE UTILIZE A GRID-FORMATION INDIVIDUALLY—

DONNIE... *ENGLISH*, PLEASE. I'M GONNA VOTE NO ON THAT.

THIS PLACE IS WAY TOO BIG AND WAY TOO SKETCHY.

"WE ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO STICK TOGETHER."

OOH, DISGUSTING! I LOVE IT.

OOH, AGGRESSIVE! I LOVE IT.

OOH, IRRESPONSIBLE! I LOVE IT.

UGH, THIS IS LIKE FINDING A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK. WHERE DO WE EVEN BEGIN?

WHERE WOULD I GO IF I WAS A POTENTIAL WITNESS TO A HOMICIDAL, GENOCIDAL ALIEN MANIAC, AND WANTED TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE ON THE BUSIEST PLANET IN THE GALAXY?

GUYS, WAIT...

...WHERE'S MIKEY?

OKAY, SURE! HERE YOU GO, MONEY-GRABBER DUDE.
GOOD LUCK, CITIZEN.
HOW MUCH DO I WIN?
MIKEY! THIS ISN'T SOME ROMP IN THE FUN ZONE, THIS IS *SERIOUS*.
NO MORE GAMES.
BUT, BUT—DADDY WANTS HIS WINNIN'S!
GUYS, ENOUGH FOOLING AROUND! WE GOTTA BEAT OUR FEET IF WE WANT TO MAKE ANY HEADWAY.
WE'RE ALREADY RUNNING BLIND TRYING TO FIND OUR WITNESS. HE COULD BE ANYWHERE.
NOT SO FAST, DONNIE.
WHOA. ISN'T THAT...
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE LOOKING FOR *ACE*.
EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF DUCK ARE WE DEALING WITH HERE...?

I WANT THAT DAMN DUCK DEAD, AND I WANT 'IM DAMN DEAD NOW!

YOU LET THAT FEATHERED FOOL JUST WALK ON INTO *MY* YARD AND STEAL HALF A MILLION IN *MY* IMPORTED WEAPONRY.

HE DIDN'T EVEN SELL 'EM. HE DUMPED 'EM IN A LAGOON LIKE SOME HAPPY DO-GOOD HERO. HE DID IT FOR *FUN*.

SO... IT'S OPEN SEASON ON THE DUCK. AND IT'S OPEN SEASON ON YOUR JOBS.

WANNA SAVE YOUR CAREER AND MAKE A COOL MILLION? BRING ME ACE, PLUCKED AND STUFFED.

"BUT NOW? NOW YOU'VE GOT EVERY RAT-BAG WITH A PULSE BREATHING DOWN YOUR NECKS FOR THE SAME PRIZE.

"EVERY MORAL-FREE LOW-LIFE WITH A POCKET WANTS THIS BOUNTY.

"NO ONE MESSES WITH PAPA CHUM'S BUSINESS AND LIVES."

IT'S TIME TO COLLECT THE BILL.

PERFECT.

TWENTY SAYS HE'S DEAD BY DAWN!

THIRTY ON ACE!

HEY, WATCH IT!

'SCUSE ME. COMIN' THROUGH HOT HERE.

WHOA!

MOVE!

FIFTY BUCKS ON THAT ONE!

LITTLE ROOM =NNG= PLEASE?

RIGHT BEHIND YOU, BUDDY.

JUST =HM= SQUEEZE PAST YOU HERE.

SORRY, THURK... LOOKS LIKE TODAY'S JUST NOT YOUR—

AW, C'MON!

THURK! FUNNY THING, SEEING YOU HERE. I WAS JUST...

...=SIGH= YOU GOT ME, HONESTLY.

YOU JUST MADE ME RICH, FLYBOY.

MAYBE I'LL INVEST IN A NICE CUSTOM DUCK DOWN JACKET.

THAK

??

whip

FWOK

!!

THUD

ACE, WE'VE BEEN SENT TO FIND YOU.

HEH, SO HE *IS* A DUCK. LIKE, AN ACTUAL DUCK.

BUT HE'S A *COOL* DUCK. LOOK AT HIS JACKET.

WHEW. THANKS FOR THE SAVE, UHH, TORTOISE... WARRIORS?

HI, MR. DUCKMAN! I'M MICHELANGELO! THE COOL ONE.

THESE ARE MY BROS LEONARDO, DONATELLO, AND RAPHAEL.

WE CAME A LONG WAY FOR YOU, ACE. WE NEED YOU.

OH YEAH? THAT'S GREAT. GLAD YOU FOUND ME, FELLAS.

AND NICE TO MEET YOU... *BOTTICELLI*, OR WHATEVER YOUR NAMES ARE.

NOW CUT THE *NICE GUY ACT*. VALIANT EFFORT, YET I AWARD YOU NO BOUNTY.

TELL PAPA CHUM TO SEND SOME SCARIER GOONS NEXT TIME.

G'NIGHT, TORTOISE WARRIORS!

AH, LET HIM GO, LEO. I DIDN'T SIGN UP TO RECEIVE ATTITUDE FROM SOME SHIFTY DUCK.

ACE, WAIT! WE'RE *NOT* BOUNTY HUNTERS!

WE NEED YOUR HELP! IT'S ABOUT KRANG!

KRANG?

DID YOU JUST SAY... *KRANG?*

YOU FOUGHT ALONGSIDE THE NEUTRINOS? *WOW.*

SURE DID. INFANTRY X-5. SPECIAL OPS. SKYBORN, BABY.

SO WHAT? LOOK AT ALL *WE'VE* BEEN THROUGH. PLUS OUR HIDEOUT IS NICER.

THAT'S WHERE IT HAPPENED, ISN'T IT?

YEAH. I'VE GOT SOMETHING, ALL RIGHT.

A REAL SMOKING GUN ON THAT UTROM MOUND OF WASTE.

WHATEVER IT IS, KRANG DOESN'T WANT YOU TO TELL THE COURT.

"WE WERE BORN TO FLY, EVERY LAST ONE OF US. AND WE'D DIE IN THE AIR IF WE HAD TO.

"ALL JUST TO STAND UP TO THE BULLIES AND SAY *'NAW. NOT TODAY. NOT EVER.'*

"FIGHTING THE UTROMS WAS LIKE A STORMY DAY AT THE BEACH. SURE, IT WAS ROUGH AND A BIT CHOPPY, BUT YOU COULD STILL ENJOY YOURSELF.

"YOU KNOW, *HAH*, FOR A FLEETING MOMENT IT WAS FUN. ALMOST FORGOT IT WAS A WAR.

"WE WERE SO GOOD. TOOK THOSE SLUDGE-LUMPS BY SURPRISE WHEN WE STARTED RUNNING CIRCLES AROUND THEM.

"MAYBE—AND THIS IS A SIGNIFICANT MAYBE—I GOT A LITTLE TOO COCKY.

"OR MAYBE THEY WERE SIMPLY... ***BETTER.***"

"THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I LEFT MY BABY BEHIND.

"BUT IT WASN'T THE LAST I'D MOURN THAT NIGHT."

"THE REST OF INFANTRY X-5 JOINED ME ON THE GROUND. WE SURRENDERED.

"THERE'RE STILL RULES TO THE MADNESS. I WASN'T A COMPANY DUCK BY ANY MEANS, BUT I WAS *HONORABLE*.

"I CAN'T SAY THE SAME FOR THAT BASTARD KRANG.

"AS IF THE CONVENTIONS MEANT NOTHING, HE SHOT US DOWN WHILE WE SURRENDERED.

"KRANG SLAUGHTERED US WHERE WE STOOD.

"AND I JUST WATCHED."

SO, YEAH. IF IT MEANS LOCKING KRANG UP UNTIL HE ROTS?

TESTIFYING IS THE LEAST I CAN DO.

THAT'S THE EASY PART. THE TRICKY PART?

GETTING OFF PALMADISE IN ONE PIECE.

I MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE DESTROYED A VERY DANGEROUS, VERY EXPENSIVE SHIPMENT OF GUNS FROM A VERY DANGEROUS, VERY WEALTHY SACK OF BILE.

SO GET ME OUTTA HERE AND I'M ALL YOURS.

THIS IS NOT GOING TO WORK.
WANNA BET ON IT? TEN BUCKS—
MIKEY! ENOUGH WITH THE BETS!
"THE HYPER-TRAIN IS THE FASTEST, MOST DIRECT WAY BACK TO YOUR SHIP..."
...BUT WE'RE ALL GOING TO BE SITTING DUCKS. HANG TIGHT. KEEP YOUR WITS.
WE'RE ONLY ENTERING A HIGH-SPEED BULLET HYPER-TRAIN WITH LITTLE MEANS TO ESCAPE.
WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?
EASY DOES IT, BROS. JUST ACT NATURAL.
LOVELY DAY FOR A TRAIN RIDE! JOLLY GOOD TUNNEL!
MIKEY! SHUT IT!
HEH.
YOU GUYS, I THINK WE ACTUALLY MIGHT—

RRRIP

DAMN BOUNTY HUNTERS FOUND ME.

THAT GUY... *YEAHHH* HE'S KINDA WITH US...

THAT RIGHT?

WELL THEN, GOOD LUCK WITH THAT!

BET YOU CAN'T—

MIKEY!

STAY FOCUSED ON HAKK-R...

THUM

"... MIKEY CAN HANDLE HIMSELF. I THINK."

=HNNG=

SORRY, KID. GOTTA FLY.

WAIT! WE HAVE A COOL RED HOT ROD! IT'S COOL!

UH, GUYS? ACE JUST FLEW THE COOP...

RRRR— GREAT! FANTASTIC!

NUH-UH. THE DUCK IS *OURS*, PAL.

WE'RE PAPA CHUM'S BOYS! WE AIN'T COMPETIN' WITH NO FREELANCER.

INSIGNIFICANT MORONS.

NOW'S OUR CHANCE. WE GOTTA GET OFF THIS TRAIN...

... AND HOPE THAT ACE ISN'T HALFWAY ACROSS PALMADISE BY NOW.

LAST CALL FOR TICKETS! LOTTERY DRAW IN T-MINUS 2 MINUTES!

LAST CALL FOR TICK—

NOT A GOOD TIME, ROBO-PEDDLER.

COOL RED HOT ROD.

BINGO.

'SCUSE ME. PARDON. COMING THROUGH.

=HUHN=

GUYS, LISTEN. I CAN *EXPLAIN.*

GOTCHA!

SAVE IT, ACE. YOU'RE A SPINELESS, FEATHERED TURNCOAT WHO CARES ONLY ABOUT HIMSELF.

YOU JUST WANT OFF THE PLANET THAT WANTS YOU DEAD. WE GET IT.

OH, HELLO!

CONGRATULATIONS, WINNER!

YOU'VE WON THE PALMADISE GRAND LOTTERY!

I... WON?

I WONNNNN!

GUYS... I THINK WE'VE BEEN SPOTTED.

JUST... BE COOL.

ACE!

AGAIN?! THAT DAMN SLIPPERY DUCK!

HE'S SHIPJACKIN' US!

HUH. NOT GOING TO LIE... I'M ACTUALLY KIND OF IMPRESSED.

HEY, DUDE. I WON. HELP ME CARRY THIS.

I THINK YOU HAVE A GAMBLING PROBLEM.

AND IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, *WE ARE STRANDED ON A VERY ANGRY PLANET!*

ALSO... THERE'S *THAT.*

I WILL FIND THAT SHIP.

AFTER I TAKE CARE OF YOU... CONSTANT DISTRACTIONS.

SIGHHH

MORE MONEY, MORE PROBLEMS, MAN.

WHUMP

OOOFF!

CITZENS OF PALMADISE— I RAISE MY BOUNTY ON ACE TO *TWO MILLION!*

DEAD OR ALIVE! THIS SYSTEM OR ANY OTHER! *I WANT THAT DUCK!*

MAY THE BEST SCUM WIN.

PUT EVERYTHING I GOT ON THE SCARY PURPLE ONE!

FIFTY ON THE NINJA LIZARDS CROAKIN'!

KWAM

=HNNG=

GAH!

KRAK

HEY... GIMME TWENTY ON THE OTHER GUY.

=GLLK=

TOO EASY.

PFEW!

=HURRR=

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE OR WHAT YOUR DEAL IS...

...BUT I SUGGEST YOU BEAT YOUR FEET BEFORE I BLAST YOU ALL THE WAY TO BALARAPHON.

PEEW! PEEW! PEEW! PEEW!

HURRR

ACE! ACE IS BACK! HE'S SO COOL.

YEAH. REAL COOL LEAVING *US* TO HANDLE THE ANDROID ASSASSIN.

WOOOO!

FOR INFANTRY X-5! SKYBORN, BABY! WE'RE COMING IN HOT FOR YA, KRANG!

PEEW! PEEW! PEEW! PEEW! PEEW! PEEW! PEEW!

MOVE IT OR LOSE IT, MY DUDES! I'LL BET HAKK-R ISN'T OUT FOR GOOD...

HIYA, FELLAS. YOU DIDN'T THINK I WAS JUST GONNA STEAL YOUR RIDE AND LEAVE YOU HERE, DID YOU?

RULE #1: ALWAYS RUN IF YOU DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT. IT'S QUICKER.

RULE #2: ALWAYS BET ON ACE.

"RULE #3: I'M DRIVING. ADIOS, PALMADISE."

UNBELIEVABLE.

YOU FLIGHTY, TWO-FACED FOWL! YOU ALMOST GOT US ALL KILLED BACK THERE! IT COULD'VE JEOPARDIZED OUR ENTIRE MISSION!

YOU COULD'VE SINGLE-HANDEDLY *SET KRANG FREE.*

OH, I'M SORRY. IT WASN'T ME WHO SAVED YOUR SHELLS FROM THAT OCTO-KILLER BACK THERE?

I'M A DUCK OF *ACTION.* I GET THINGS *DONE* ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

GUYS, GUYS, GUYS—PLEASE. ACE, YOU'RE COOL. LIKE, *TOO* COOL. RAPH... YOU'RE KINDA COOL.

WE'RE ALL COOL, RIGHT? SO LET'S JUST... BE COOL.

UNTIL THIS HOTHEAD IS ON THE WITNESS STAND, I WONT TRUST HIM.

WHEN KRANG'S BEHIND BARS FOR THE REST OF HIS SLIMY LIFE—*THEN* WE'RE COOL.

WE ARE OFF PALMADISE. AND ACE, WE'RE IN YOUR DEBT FOR AGREEING TO TESTIFY. BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE SCOT-FREE.

THE ONLY WAY THIS MISSION CAN BE PULLED OFF IS IF WE STICK TOGETHER. EVERY PART WORKING AS ONE. AGAINST KRANG.

YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT, ACE. YOU LOST YOUR TEAM. BUT IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ALONE ANYMORE. WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK.

I'VE GOT YOURS TOO. LEAVE NO SOUL BEHIND. I GET IT NOW.

AHH, I LOVE A HAPPY ENDING THAT ENDS WITH US BEING COOLER. RIGHT, RAPH?

MIKEY, PLEASE TELL ME YOU SAVED YOUR WINNINGS SO I CAN BUY MY OWN SHIP.

ALL RIGHT! WARS AREN'T WON ON AUTOPILOT!

"STRAP IN, FOLKS... WE'RE ABOUT TO GET WAY AHEAD OF SCHEDULE."

art by CHRIS JOHNSON
colors by MARK ENGLERT

DIMENSION X #5

ᐱᒍᓐᓇᐃᓕᓐᓂᒃ ᑲᑎᕕᒃᓴᓂᒃ ᑲᓇᐃᔨᓂᕐᒪ!

WHAT?!

AH! OFF-PLANET LINGUISTICS. NO PROBLEM. WE WILL START OVER.

WELCOME, HONORED GUEST, TO *TOTUS*.

WE ARE *POLYGLOT*. CAN WE INTEREST YOU IN A GUIDED TOUR?

I LANDED IN STEALTH-MODE. HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS HERE?

THE... "GRASS," AS YOU WOULD SAY, REGISTERED YOUR LANDING AND DIRECTED US TO YOUR POSITION.

US?

TOTUS!

IT IS REALLY QUITE FASCINATING! YOU SEE, THIS PLANET IS A UNIQUE, FULLY INTEGRATED ECOSYSTEM, MORE PROPERLY CONSIDERED A SINGLE ORGA—

I NEED TO FIND "OCCULI." CAN YOU TAKE ME TO HIM?

CERTAINLY.

RIGHT THIS WAY, MISTER...?

THEY CALL ME HAKK-R.

AS WE WERE SAYING, TOTUS IS A SINGLE ORGANISM; ALL THE INHABITANTS WORK TOGETHER AS ITS PARTS AND SYSTEMS.

ALONG THOSE LINES, WE HOPE YOU ARE NOT EXPECTING TO CONVERSE WITH OCCULI, AS YOU WILL FIND THAT NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE.

WE POLYGLOTS ARE ONE OF ONLY TWO SYSTEMS ON TOTUS CAPABLE OF SPEECH.

"CAPABLE OF SPEECH"? YOU MEAN OCCULI CAN'T TALK?

THAT IS CORRECT. AT LEAST, NOT IN A WAY THAT YOU COULD COMPREHEND.

THE ONLY EXCEPTION IS IN WHAT WE NOW CALL *THE WASTELAND*, WHERE—

THAT HIM?

WE ARE IN CONSTANT COLLECTIVE COMMUNICATION HERE, VIA CHEMICAL SIGNALS AT BOTH THE ROOT AND BUD LEVEL.

INDEED IT IS. AND AS YOU CAN SEE, OCCULI POSSESS NO MECHANISM FOR AUDIBLE SPEECH.

WELL-

-BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY.

KE-ZZZAPT

WHAT DID YOU DO?! WHY DO YOU *HURT* US?!

NOTHING PERSONAL. IT'S JUST THAT I CAME TO TOTUS TO ELIMINATE-

-A WITNESS...

THIS IS GONNA BE HARDER THAN I THOUGHT!

THE MALIGNOID SWARM IS ONLY A FEW HUNDRED CLICKS BEHIND US, AND OF COURSE WE DON'T WANT TO LEAD THEM TO A POPULATED PLANET.

I THINK WE'RE LOOKING AT A DROP AND RUN.

WE'LL TRY TO LEAD THEM AWAY WHILE YOU GUYS FIND THE WITNESS ON TOTUS.

OKAY GUYS; LET'S REVIEW WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THIS PLANET.

IT'S POPULATED EXCLUSIVELY BY BOTANICAL LIFE—

BOTANICAL?

PLANTS. BUT PLANTS THAT CAN *THINK* AND MAYBE *MOVE* AROUND A LITTLE.

LIKE *KILLER TOMATOES*?!

EXACTLY *NOT* LIKE KILLER TOMATOES, ACCORDING TO MY RESEARCH. VERY *PEACEFUL*.

CAN WE FOCUS, PLEASE?

THEY'VE BEEN COMPLETELY NEUTRAL IN EVERY KNOWN WAR IN THIS DIMENSION, WHICH MAY BE WHY KRANG THOUGHT HE COULD GET AWAY WITH TESTING EXPERIMENTAL WEAPONS THERE ILLEGALLY.

HENCE THE WAR CRIME.

AND THE WITNESS TO IT...

"...I JUST HOPE WE CAN GET TO HIM BEFORE HAKK-R DOES."

WELCOME, HONORED GUESTS, TO TOTUS.

WE ARE POLYGLOT, AND WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT THE PLANET IS CURRENTLY *CLOSED* TO ALL TOURISM.

WE'RE NOT TOURISTS.

I'M LEONARDO, THESE ARE MY BROTHERS, AND WE'RE HERE ABOUT A MATTER OF *INTERGALACTIC JUSTICE*.

YOU KNOW A GUY NAMED *OCCULI*?

WELL, LEONARDO, THE FACT IS—

HE'S LEO. I'M RAPH.

OUR APOLOGIES.

WE WERE GOING TO SAY THAT OCCULI ARE NOT REALLY "A GUY" ANY MORE THAN ALL OF YOU ARE. LIKE YOU, THE OCCULI ARE—

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WE'RE TOTALLY GUYS.

INDEED?

PERHAPS WE SHOULD HAVE SAID "INDEPENDENT ENTITIES."

LIKE YOU, THE OCCULI ARE A COLLECTIVE, WORKING TOGETHER AS THE VISION SYSTEM FOR TOTUS. WHAT, IF WE MAY ASK, IS YOUR SYSTEM?

SYSTEM...? YOU MEAN LIKE NINJITSU?

I THINK THERE'S BEEN A MISUNDERSTANDING.

WE ACTUALLY *ARE* INDEPENDENT ENTITIES. THAT'S MIKEY, AND I'M DONNIE—

OH, WE HAVE HEARD OF NINJITSU, LEONARDORAPH-MIKEYDONNIE!

YOU ARE AN IMMUNE SYSTEM.

WELL, YEAH, OKAY, KINDA. BUT, SEE, WE'RE ALL INDIVIDUALS, TOO.

YEAH! LIKE, FOR INSTANCE, I'M A TOTALLY BOSS FIGHTER.

THAT'S... NOT THE BEST EXAMPLE, MIKEY.

OH, RIGHT, OKAY. WELL, LIKE...

...I SUPER-DIG *PIZZA!*

NO?

UH... I USE NUNCHAKU?

THERE YA GO!

ARE THESE THE... THE OTHER SPEAKING SYSTEM YOU MENTIONED?

THAT IS CORRECT, LEONARDO.

OKAY, SO...! YOU'RE ALREADY DOWN WITH MY BIG BRO, LEO, THERE. HE USES KATANA AND CAN SOMETIMES BE A LITTLE BOSSY.

THE ONE IN THE PURPLE WITH THE BO IS DONNIE. TOTAL TECH-HEAD.

AND THEN THAT'S RAPH THERE WITH THE RED MASK AND THE SAI. HE'S ALMOST AS GOOD IN A FIGHT AS ME.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST, THERE'S ME, MIKEY.

OBVIOUSLY, I'M THE GOOD-LOOKING ONE.

PLEASE EXCUSE US! WE ARE GETTING A DISTRESS CALL...

WE ARE AFRAID WE MUST ONCE AGAIN REQUEST YOUR WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PLANET!

THE DISTRESS CALL—IT'S FROM THE OCCULI, ISN'T IT?

WE'RE COMING WITH YOU! WE CAN HELP!

YES! *SUPERHERO TIME!*

—I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER TO HAVE THIS CHANCE TA BEAT YOU UP!

MUCH AS LEO WANTED TO BEAT YOU HERE—

YEAH, YOU'D *BETTER* RUN!

THIS ISN'T GONNA WORK, IS IT?

YOU DON'T THINK THEY CAN CATCH HIM?

NOT THAT.

I MEAN THE WHOLE WITNESS THING.

OH, BECAUSE NONE OF THESE "SYSTEMS" ARE GONNA BE ABLE TO SURVIVE INDEPENDENTLY OFF-PLANET?

WAIT, SERIOUSLY? I HADN'T EVEN THOUGHT OF THAT!

IF THEY EXIST COLLECTIVELY, I'M GUESSING THEY COULDN'T PHYSICALLY SURVIVE BEING SEPARATED FROM ONE ANOTHER, OR THE PLANET.

AND HERE I WAS WORRYING ABOUT HOW A BUNCH OF GIANT EYEBALLS COULD TESTIFY IN COURT...

WATCH IT, MIKEY!

HE'S GOT THOSE *FIRE BOMBS* OUT AGAIN!

I GOT IT!

PA-TING

PA-TING

PA-TING

I *DON'T* GOT IT!

YEAH, NO KIDDIN'...

MAN, I *HATE* IT WHEN THAT DUDE OUT-NINJAS US.

THAT STINKIN' ROBO-SQUID GOT AWAY.

DON'T WORRY, RAPH. WE'LL GET HIM.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE.

IT WAS INSPIRING TO WATCH YOU WORK TOGETHER TO DEFEND OUR FIELD OF VISION.

I GUESS IN THAT SENSE WE *ARE* A SINGLE ENTITY...

...A *TEAM.*

THAT'S TRUE. AND AS A TEAM, WE PROMISE WE'LL MAKE HAKK-R PAY FOR THE DAMAGE HE'S DONE HERE TODAY.

BUT HAKK-R'S JUST AN AGENT OF SOMETHING WORSE. *SOMEONE* WORSE.

WE CAME HERE HOPING TO CONVINCE OCCULI TO TESTIFY AGAINST KRANG FOR THE ILLEGAL WEAPONS TESTING HE DID HERE.

HE'S STANDING TRIAL ON NEUTRINO.

THE INCIDENT YOU SPEAK OF REMAINS THE SINGLE GREATEST TRAGEDY IN OUR HISTORY.

THOSE TESTS CREATED A HORRIFIC WASTELAND IN THE HEART OF OUR JUNGLE.

BUT SADLY, HAVING THE OCCULI TESTIFY WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE.

THEY CANNOT SPEAK, NOR COULD THEY SURVIVE OFF-PLANET.

WE REALIZE THAT.

WE DO?

WHICH IS WHY WE'D LIKE TO ASK YOUR PERMISSION TO COLLECT EVIDENCE IN THE WASTELAND OURSELVES.

WE WOULD?

"YOU'VE GOT THEIR ATTENTION ALL RIGHT!"

THAT WAS THE IDEA, WASN'T IT?

I THOUGHT THE IDEA WAS TO LOSE THEM.

ONE STEP AT A TIME...

UH, KALA.

NOT TO QUESTION YOUR NAVIGATIONAL APTITUDE, BUT YOU DO SEE THAT GIANT ASTEROID FIELD IN FRONT OF US, RIGHT?

I DO, ZAK.

AND I ALSO SEE YOU SMILE EVERY TIME THE ODDS OF SURVIVAL DROP BELOW A MILLION TO ONE.

MIKEY WAS TELLING ME ABOUT A LITTLE GAME THEY PLAY ON EARTH...

"...I BELIEVE HE CALLED IT *HIDE AND SEEK.*"

THIS IS AS FAR AS WE CAN GO.

THE LANDSCAPE HERE HAS BEEN PERMANENTLY ALTERED, AS YOU CAN SEE, AS HAS THE BIOLOGY OF ITS FEW REMAINING INHABITANTS.

THOSE NOT KILLED OUTRIGHT WERE... *CHANGED. MUTATED.*

SOUNDS LIKE WE'LL FIT RIGHT IN.

THE MUTATIONS MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO CONTINUE IN THEIR VARIOUS FUNCTIONS.

THEY'RE NO LONGER OF ANY USE TO US AND NO LONGER SUPPORTED BY US.

SO HOW DO THEY SURVIVE?

WE HUNT!

pouff

SMELLS LIKE...

...ANCHOVIES...

RAPH!

LIKE YA EVEN HAD TO ASK...

HANG IN THERE, MIKEY! WE'RE COMIN'!

HYAH!

HE'LL BE OKAY.

GOTCHA!

LET ME GO!

THIS IS *MY* TERRITORY! YOU DO NOT BELONG HERE!

AW, YOU'RE A FEISTY LITTLE ONE, AIN'TCHA, BUTTERCUP?

COME A LITTLE CLOSER, YOU BIG WEED, AND I WILL TAKE YOU OUT LIKE YOUR OTHER *SHOOT!*

WHAT'D SHE JUST CALL MIKEY?

SHE'S ASSUMING WE'RE ALL THE SAME THING, LIKE PARTS OF A SINGLE PLANT.

AND WHAT? MIKEY'S SOME KINDA LEAF WE'RE SUPPOSED TA JUST DROP?

AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN, BUTTERCUP. MIKEY'S OUR BROTHER. AND WE'D NEVER LEAVE HIM BEHIND.

MAYBE YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND THAT KIND OF CONNECTION, BUT—

CONNECTION?!

I DO NOT UNDERSTAND CONNECTION?!

"I BLOSSOMED JUST BEFORE THE BLIGHT CAME TO TOTUS—A POLYGLOT LIKE ANY OTHER.

"I WAS TOTUS AND TOTUS WAS ME. EVERYTHING WAS IN PERFECT HARMONY, AND WE HAD EVERYTHING WE NEEDED.

"BUT THEN THE BLIGHT TOOK OUR JUNGLE, SCARRING TOTUS FOREVER.

"IN ONE HORRIBLE SECOND, I WAS SEVERED FROM EVERYTHING I HAD EVER KNOWN. I LOST MY PURPOSE, MY IDENTITY, MY... MY..."

YOUR FAMILY?

BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT WE ARE. A FAMILY. AND IF YOU HURT MIKEY, I SWEAR I'LL GRIND YOU INTO GRASS MULCH!

IT WAS JUST *CONCENTRATED POLLEN.*

IT WILL WEAR OFF ANY MINUTE NOW.

ACHOO!

SEE?

THE BLIGHT YOU MENTIONED— THAT MUST HAVE BEEN KRANG.

WAIT! *DON'T GO!*

EASY, LITTLE BRO.

LOOK, WE'RE HERE BECAUSE WE NEED WITNESSES TO TESTIFY AGAINST KRANG'S WAR CRIMES.

THIS MIGHT BE THE ONLY CHANCE WE EVER GET TO PUT HIM AWAY *FOR GOOD.*

I KNOW I SAID *NO ANCHOVIES!* THIS IS *NOT MY PIE!*

MIKEY?

PIE?

HE MEANS *PIZZA.*

UH, EXCUSE ME, PLEASE...

PIZZA?

WHY WOULD I WANT FURRY FISH ON MY SLICE?! *WHY?!*

SNAP OUT OF IT, MIKEY, WOULDJA?!

AAAAH!

GREETINGS, HONORED GUESTS.

WE ARE POLYGLOT, AND WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT MUTANTS MAY NOT PASS BEYOND THIS BOUNDARY.

YOU GONNA STOP ME, PIPSQUEAK?

IT MEANS ME.

THIS IS HOW TOTUS VIEWS ME NOW. A CRIMINAL. A PARASITE.

I DO NOT EXPECT YOU TO UNDERSTAND, BUT OUR PLANET IS A COMPLETE ORGANISM. WE ARE ALL ONE—

—AND ONE FOR ALL!

GIRL, WE ALL *ABOUT* THAT!

YOU GUESTS MAY LEAVE.

BUT THE MUTATION CAN GO NO FURTHER.

IT'S EVEN WORSE THAN I THOUGHT. TOTUS IS THE WITNESS—THE *WHOLE PLANET!*

ALL OF THESE LITTLE CREATURES ARE REALLY... *ONE GIANT CREATURE!*

WELL, NOT ALL OF 'EM.

THE PLANET'S REJECTED THE MUTANTS, RIGHT?

THEY'VE BECOME INDIVIDUALS. FREE AGENTS, EVEN. THEY'RE INDEPENDENT...

DONNIE, YOU'RE A GENIUS!

YOU'RE NOT TOTUS ANYMORE, OR EVEN A POLYGLOT—DO YOU HAVE YOUR OWN NAME?

I WAS THE NINETY-FIVE THOUSANDTH, FOUR HUNDRED AND EIGHTIETH POLYGLOT TO BLOOM, SO I'LL BE *POLY-95480*.

WE'RE JUST GONNA CALL HER *POLLY*, THOUGH, RIGHT?

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, TOTUS, YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD BEYOND YOUR ORBIT.

POLY-95480 CAN BE YOUR AMBASSADOR. THAT'S WHAT THE POLYGLOTS EVOLVED TO BE, ISN'T IT?

BUT POLLY'S A *DELUXE MODEL!*

NO MORE WAITIN' FOR PEEPS TO COME HERE—YOU CAN SEND HER OUT TO THE STARS!

WHERE SHE CAN DEMAND JUSTICE AND PROTECT YOUR GALAXY FROM SCUM LIKE KRANG.

IT HAS TO BE YOUR CHOICE, THOUGH.

I... I THINK I WOULD LIKE TO DO THIS.

FOR US.

IT WILL BE STRANGE TO SEE US... TO SEE YOU GO.

CHAMPION HIDE-AND-SEEKERS IN POSITION FOR PICKUP, LEO!

COPY THAT.

WELL, THAT'S OUR RIDE.

IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'D BE THE FIRST TOTUSIAN TO EVER LEAVE THE PLANET. BUT YOU'D BE WITH US, AND WE COULD REALLY USE YOUR HELP.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I THINK I WOULD LIKE TO GRIND KRANG INTO *GRASS MULCH*.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY, BUTTERCUP.

"YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT EVERYTHING."

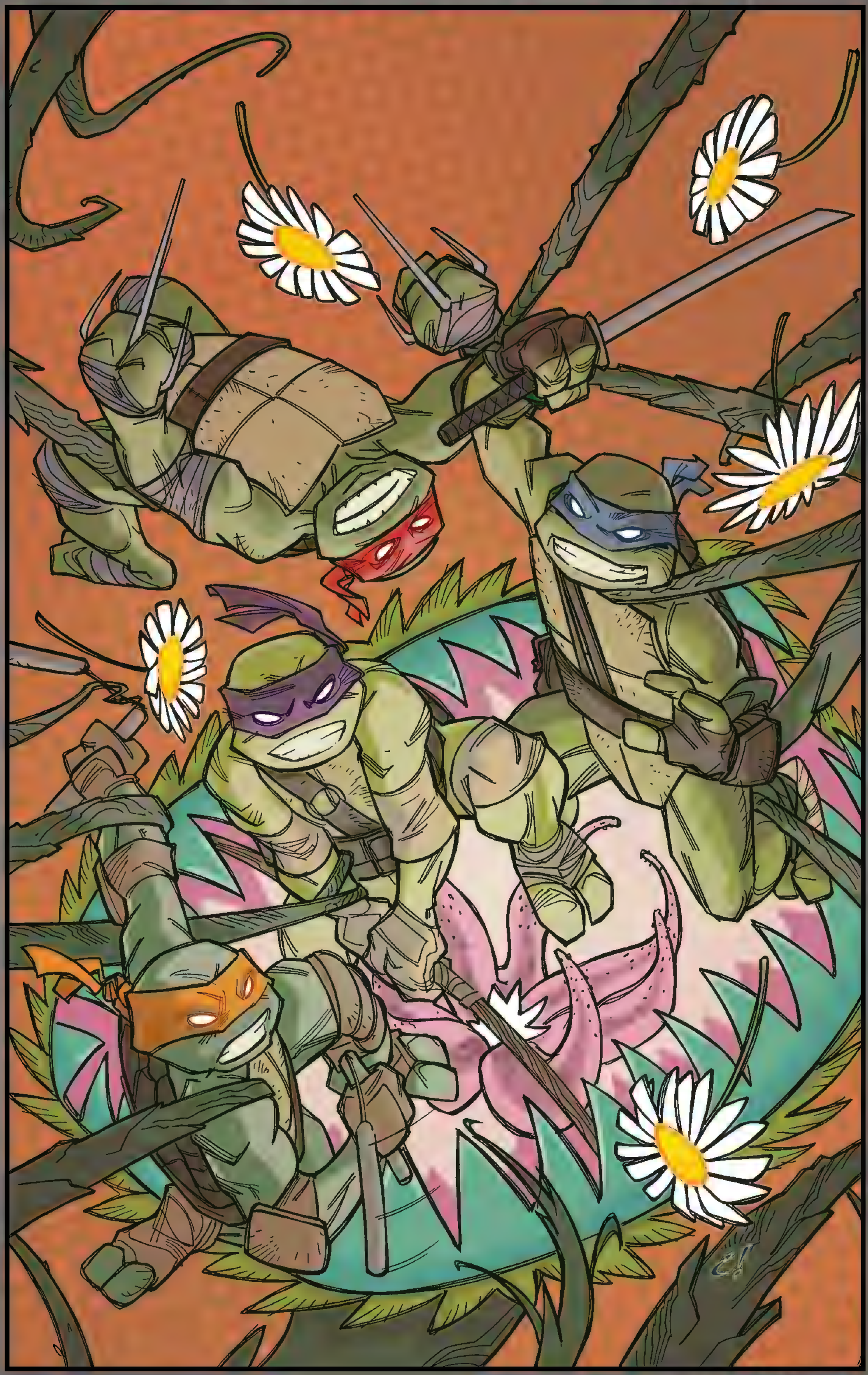
THE WITNESSES ARE PLANTS. CAN'T EVEN LEAVE THE PLANET.

GOOD, GOOD. ONE LESS THING TO WORRY ABOUT.

YOU DIDN'T RUN INTO THOSE INFERNAL TURTLES, DID YOU?

THEY WERE THERE...

"...BUT THEY DIDN'T GET ANYTHING EITHER."



art by CRAIG ROUSSEAU

ISSUE #73

art by CORY SMITH
colors by RONDA PATTISON

PLANET NEUTRINO.

SMADA CITY.

THE KAH LIL HIGH-SECURITY PRISON.

"IT'S ALL *OVERKILL*, I TELL YOU!

"THIS IMBECILIC *CIRCUS* THEY'VE ROLLED OUT—

"—IT *REEKS* OF PUTRID POLITICAL THEATER!

"I WONDER—DO THAT FOOL *ZENTER'S* SUBJECTS REALIZE HOW HE'S SPENDING THEIR PRECIOUS TAX DOLLARS ON SUCH AN *UTTER* WASTE OF TIME AND ENERGY?"

AND FOR WHAT?! TO SUBJUGATE THE *INNOCENT* IN THIS ABSOLUTE *CHARADE* OF A CASE, THAT'S WHAT!

TO PLACE GUILT WHERE THERE IS *NONE!*

I SAY AGAIN—

OVERKILL!

YES, WELL, OVERKILLING IS *EXACTLY* WHAT'S PUT YOU IN THIS PRECARIOUS POSITION, GENERAL KRANG.

ATTEMPTED MASS GENOCIDE... AND IN *TWO* DIMENSIONS, NO LESS.

DAMN THEM AND THEIR GENOCIDE! MY PLANET WAS DYING—MY VERY PEOPLE—THROUGH *NO FAULT* OF MY OWN!

YET, DESPITE MY LACK OF CULPABILITY, I ACTED. I DID WHAT *HAD* TO BE DONE TO ENSURE MY RACE LIVED ON... WHAT ANY *TRUE LEADER* WOULD DO FACED WITH THE SAME DIRE CIRCUMSTANCES.

TELL ME, *COUNCILOR VIN-BINI*—HAD I REMAINED IDLE AND ALLOWED THEM TO ALL PERISH, WOULD THAT HAVE BEEN ANY *LESS* AN ACT OF GENOCIDE ON MY PART?

FRANKLY, GENERAL, AS YOUR COUNSEL, YOUR INNOCENCE OR GUILT MATTERS *LITTLE* TO ME.

A SOUND AND SOLID DEFENSE IS *MY* CHIEF CONCERN AND I WILL MOST CERTAINLY UTILIZE YOUR SELF-PROCLAIMED BENEVOLENT MOTIVES TO *THAT* EFFECT, INSUBSTANTIAL AS THEY MAY BE.

INSUBSTANTIAL?!

HOW DARE YOU QUESTION MY MOTIVATIONS!

AGAIN, IT'S NOT *I* WHO IS QUESTIONING SUCH THINGS.

IT'S THE WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL, AND BASED ON THE CASE THEY'VE BUILT—AND *CONTINUE* TO BUILD—AGAINST YOU, OUR PATH FORWARD IS A STEEP AND TREACHEROUS ONE AT BEST.

NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE THE *"TRIAL OF THE CENTURY"* TO PREPARE FOR.

TRIAL OF THE CENTURY—*BAH!*

FARCE OF THE CENTURY MORE LIKE.

ARE YOU STILL *THERE*, HUNTER?

UNFORTUNATELY, YES. IF YOU THINK YOUR CELL'S A TIGHT FIT, TRY CRAWLING THROUGH THESE DUCTS.

THEN *WHAT* WOULD BE THE POINT OF PAYING YOU SO HANDSOMELY FOR SUCH TRIFLE INCONVENIENCES?

WELL, ESCAPE, FOR ONE. IT WAS CHILD'S PLAY FOR ME TO TRICK THE PITIFUL SECURITY CAMERAS IN YOUR CELL—

"—THOSE IDIOT GUARDS OUTSIDE THINK YOU'RE SLEEPING."

WHY GO THROUGH ALL THIS TROUBLE WHEN I COULD EASILY REMOVE THIS VENT COVER AND SLIP YOU OUT OF THIS PLACE?

AND GIVE THESE NEUTRINO SCUM ONE MORE CRIMINAL OFFENSE TO HOLD AGAINST ME? *NO*. ESCAPE WOULD ONLY MAKE ME A FUGITIVE FROM THE LAW.

I FULLY PLAN TO *CLEAR* MY NAME AND WALK OUT OF HERE A FREE UTROM—MY FIRST STEPS TOWARD MAKING THESE CRAVEN FOOLS *RUE* THE DAY THEY DARED HOLD KRANG PRISONER.

NO WITNESSES, NO CASE. NO CASE, NO CONVICTION.

TAKE THIS. YOU *ALREADY* HAVE THE NAMES AND LOCATIONS YOU ACQUIRED FROM THAT METAL MONSTROSITY *FUGITOID*.* NOW YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS.

AYE AYE, GENERAL.

* See *TMNT: Free Comic Book Day Special 2017-B.C.*

AND, HAKK-R, I *TRUST* YOU UNDERSTAND—TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. THE TRIAL STARTS IN MERE DAYS.

LEAVE NOW...

"...AND LET *NOTHING* STAND IN YOUR WAY."

OKAY, IS *EVERYONE* ALL SET?

WE'RE NOT *FORGETTING* ANYTHING BEFORE WE HEAD OUT?

FOR THE *HUNDREDTH* TIME, WE'RE GOOD TO GO, LEO. AIN'T LIKE WE'RE LEAVIN' FOREVER.

YEAH, BIG BRO.

IT'S JUST A SHORT JUMP INTO A *WHOLE OTHER* DIMENSION TO HELP ROUND UP A BUNCH OF SKETCHY WITNESSES SO WE CAN PUT THAT KOOK KRANG IN JAIL FOR GOOD.

WHAT'S TO *WORRY* ABOUT?

GREAT, MIKE... JUST STRESS HIM OUT MORE.

...AS I SUSPECT OUR **NEUTRINO ESCORT** WILL BE ARRIVING SHORTLY.

IS IT PRINCESS TRIB?! OH, MAN, HOW *COOL* WOULD THAT BE?

OKAY—SECURITY SYSTEM'S READY. THIS PLACE'LL BE IN *FULL LOCKDOWN* AS SOON AS WE TELEPORT OUT OF HERE.

I ALREADY GAVE *APRIL* ALL THE PASSCODES, SO WE SHOULD BE ALL SET.

THAT IS GOOD TO HEAR, DONATELLO...

I HATE TO BE THE BEARER OF BAD NEWS, MICHELANGELO, BUT A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY WOULD **NEVER** TAKE PART IN A SIMPLE ESCORT MISSION... NO MATTER HOW "COOL" IT MIGHT BE.

BUMMER. I *REALLY* WANTED TO SHOW HER MY SICK MANGA COLLECTION.

PERSONALLY I CAN'T WAIT TO GET GOING.

BETWEEN BISHOP AND THE PANTHEON AND EVERYTHING ELSE WE'VE BEEN DEALING WITH— A LITTLE INTER-DIMENSIONAL JAUNT SOUNDS *PERFECT* RIGHT ABOUT NOW.

OKAY, GIRL, LISTEN UP...

...APRIL'S GONNA COME HERE EVERY DAY WHILE I'M GONE TO CHECK UP ON YOU. SO, YOU BE A GOOD GIRL AND DON'T MAKE *ANY TROUBLE* FOR HER.

AND ABSOLUTELY *NO* SWIMMIN'.

BUT YOU CAN HANG OUT IN LEO'S ROOM *ALL* YOU WANT, OKAY?

WHAT?

NOTHIN'.

AH, EXCELLENT...

...RIGHT ON SCHEDULE.

FOOM

ANYONE CALL FOR A NEUTRINO ESCORT?

IT'S *GREAT* TO SEE YOU AGAIN, COMMANDER DASK!

LIKEWISE, MY FRIENDS. IT APPEARS THE *GLORIOUS HEROES OF THE KRANG WAR* REMAIN FIT AND HEALTHY.

"GLORIOUS HEROES." SWEET!

YO, COMMANDER, *WHERE'S* ZAK AND KALA?

WE'LL BE MEETING UP WITH THEM ON PLANET NEUTRINO, RAPHAEL. THEY HAD... *UM*... *OTHER* TRIAL-RELATED BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO FIRST.

PROFESSOR HONEYCUTT, ARE WE READY?

WE ARE **INDEED**, COMMANDER.

GOOD.

NEXT STOP, *SMADA CITY*.

FOOM

"TALK ABOUT *DIVIN'* RIGHT IN..."

...YOU DON'T WASTE ANY TIME, *DO YA*, COMMANDER?

THAT'S BECAUSE WE HAVE *NONE* TO WASTE, RAPHAEL.

THERE'S A LOT TO DO IN A VERY SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME, AND *MOST* OF IT DANGEROUS.

HELLO, TURTLES.

LEAPIN' LIZARDS...

...LEATHERHEAD!

HOW'D *THAT* PSYCHO GET HERE?

GET *READY*, GUYS.

NO, PLEASE, MY FRIENDS, LOWER YOUR WEAPONS—

—LEATHERHEAD IS HERE BY **INVITATION.**

INVITATION, PROFESSOR? I THINK YOU AND I HAVE DIFFERING OPINIONS ON *THAT* PARTICULAR TERM'S DEFINITION.

PROFESSOR, *WHAT* THE HECK'S GOING ON?

MY APOLOGIES, DONATELLO.

I'D HOPED TO HAVE TIME TO **WARN** YOU BEFORE THIS UNSETTLING REUNION.

COMMANDER DASK'S TROOPS DELIVERED THE SUBPOENA MUCH **QUICKER** THAN I ANTICIPATED.

SUBPOENA?

WHAT'S THE MATTER, DADDY-O...

...THAT *TOO BIG* A WORD FOR YOU EARTH PUNKS?

ZAK, *MY MAN!* HOW YOU DOIN'?

I'M WAY CHILL, PAL. *WAY CHILL.*

KALA, WHAT *HAPPENED* TO YOU GUYS?

LEATHERHEAD HAPPENED, MIKEY—

—LET'S JUST SAY HIS COOPERATION WAS *SORELY LACKING* WHEN WE DELIVERED THE COURT SUMMONS TO HIM.

AN UNFORTUNATE MISUNDERSTANDING, REALLY.

TELEPORTING IN WITHOUT WARNING LIKE YOU DID DOESN'T GIVE ONE MUCH TIME TO PROFFER *CORDIAL* GREETINGS.

WELL, I DON'T UNDERSTAND *ANY* OF THIS. WHY IS LEATHERHEAD EVEN HERE?

AND HOW DID YOU *FIND* HIM?

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE UTROM **MA'RIELL**, ACTUALLY. SHE'S DETERMINED TO RESTORE THE HONOR OF HER PEOPLE AND HAS BEEN VERY **SUPPORTIVE** IN OUR EFFORTS TO PROSECUTE GENERAL KRANG.

IT WAS **SHE** WHO INFORMED ME OF THE **TRACKER** IMPLANTED WITHIN LEATHERHEAD'S BODY BY THE GENERAL DURING HIS LONG IMPRISONMENT ON BURNOW ISLAND.

NOT ANYMORE.

YEAH—

"—THE WHACKO RIPPED IT OUT WITH HIS *OWN* TEETH."

OKAY, WE KNOW THE HOW. BUT *WHY?*

IT IS—

EW. GROSS.

A MERE *FLESH WOUND*, NOTHING MORE.

I BELIEVE *I* CAN EXPLAIN, IF YOU DON'T MIND, PROFESSOR—

—AFTER ALL, IT FEELS RATHER STRANGE TO HAVE EVERYONE SPEAKING FOR ME WHEN I'M STANDING *RIGHT HERE*.

CERTAINLY, LEATHERHEAD. MY APOLOGIES.

THIS OUGHTTA BE GOOD.

AS YOU ARE ALL AWARE, I MAINTAIN AN *INTENSE INTEREST* IN BRINGING THE UTROMS TO JUSTICE FOR THEIR MANY CRIMES AGAINST NATURE, GENERAL KRANG IN PARTICULAR.

YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT AND TORTURE TEND TO *DRIVE* THAT NEED IN A PERSON.

"IRONICALLY, IT WAS THE UTROM SCIENTIST—AS THE GOOD PROFESSOR ALREADY MENTIONED—WHO SUGGESTED I BE SOUGHT OUT TO *TESTIFY* AS A WITNESS TO KRANG'S ATROCITIES ON EARTH.

"SOON THEREAFTER, THE NEUTRINOS ARRIVED WITH THEIR SUMMONS, AND FOLLOWING A MOMENTARY BIT OF CONFUSION, I DECIDED THAT SHORT OF DELIVERING LONG OVERDUE *PUNISHMENT* TO KRANG MYSELF, I WOULD TAKE PART IN THE COURT PROCEEDINGS INTENDED TO LOCK HIM AWAY FOR THE REMAINDER OF HIS MISERABLE EXISTENCE..."

...A JUST SENTENCE FOR MY FORMER JAILER IF *EVER* THERE WAS ONE.

AND WE'RE JUST SUPPOSED TO *TRUST* THIS BACKSTABBIN' NUT-JOB? *LAST* TIME WE WERE WITH HIM, HE KNOCKED FUGITOID'S HEAD OFF!*

I HEAR YOU, RAPH, BUT OTHER THAN OUR INITIAL DUST-UP, LEATHERHEAD'S BEEN ONE HUNDRED PERCENT *COMPLIANT*.

I THINK HE'S *SERIOUS* ABOUT WANTING TO HELP PUT KRANG AWAY.

THE ENEMY OF MY ENEMY IS MY FRIEND...

* See TMNT#56-B.C.

...AT LEAST FOR NOW.

BUT *ENOUGH* OF THIS. YOU REALLY DIDN'T THINK WE'D BRING OUR EARTH FRIENDS HERE WITHOUT A SPECIAL WELCOME, *DID* YOU?

SO, IF YOU'D ALL FOLLOW ME, PLEASE...

"...YOU'RE WANTED AT THE *ROYAL PALACE.*"

O...

...M...

...G.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

THEIR ROYAL MAJESTIES—KING ZENTER, QUEEN GIZZLA, AND PRINCESS TRIB—

—HAVE SUMMONED YOU ALL HERE TODAY TO JOIN THEM IN *HONORING* LEONARDO, DONATELLO, RAPHAEL, AND MICHELANGELO. CITIZENS OF EARTH...

...AND *THE GLORIOUS HEROES OF THE KRANG WAR!*

PINCH ME, DONNIE, 'CAUSE I THINK I'M DREAMIN'.

YOU AND ME *BOTH,* MIKE.

PLEASE... COME *FORWARD,* MY FRIENDS.

OH, MAN, THIS IS SO COOL. I'M TOTALLY *LUKE* RIGHT NOW... AND LEO'S *HAN.* RAPH, YOU CAN BE *CHEWIE*—

—BUMMER, NO MEDAL FOR *YOU,* DUDE.

WHATEVER.

WAIT. WHO AM I?

A LONELY NERD, BRO. HOW MANY TIME'S I GOTTA *TELL* YA?

SHH! GUYS—LOCK IT UP!

MY FELLOW CITIZENS, IT IS MY ABSOLUTE *HONOR* AND *PRIVILEGE* TO SPEAK FOR MY FATHER THE KING AND MY MOTHER THE QUEEN ON THIS *AUSPICIOUS* OCCASION.

AND AUSPICIOUS IT *TRULY* IS, FOR HOW OFTEN ARE WE ABLE TO WELCOME RETURNING *HEROES* TO OUR HUMBLE PLANET—A PLANET THAT NOW KNOWS *FREEDOM* FROM THE HORRORS OF WAR WROUGHT AGAINST US NOT SO LONG AGO BY THE DESPOT KRANG...

...THANKS IN *GREAT PART* TO THE VALIANT AND SELFLESS ACTIONS OF *THESE* FOUR WARRIORS WHO STAND BEFORE US.

MICHELANGELO.

=SIGH=

DONATELLO.

THANKS, PRINCESS.

RAPHAEL.

YO.

LEONARDO.

THANK YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS.

FOUR RESPECTED NAMES THAT WILL BE ETCHED INTO THE ANNALS OF NEUTRINO HISTORY FOR *ALL* ETERNITY.

FOUR BRAVE *HEROES* WHO WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED FOR THE HARROWING SACRIFICES THEY MADE IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR THAT ONCE-DESOLATE HISTORY TO MARCH ONWARD INTO A HOPEFUL AND BLESSED PRESENT AND FUTURE.

BUT *MOST* IMPORTANTLY, FOUR WONDERFUL FRIENDS...

"...WHO WILL BE CHERISHED *FOREVER.*"

OH, MIKEY! I'M *SO HAPPY* TO SEE YOU!

I'M DREAMIN'... TOTALLY DREAMIN'.

I KNOW THE CEREMONY WAS ALL SO AWFULLY *FORMAL*, BUT WHEN I HEARD YOU AND YOUR BROTHERS WERE COMING, I JUST KNEW WE *HAD* TO DO SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR ALL OF YOU.

I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND.

UM... ACTUALLY, IT WAS THE MOST *AWESOMEST* THING THAT'S *EVER* HAPPENED TO ME.

WELL, UNTIL THAT *HUG* JUST NOW.

YES, MY FRIENDS, QUEEN GIZZLA AND I *SHARE* OUR DAUGHTER'S ENTHUSIASM ON YOUR RETURN... AS WELL AS FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO *ONCE AGAIN* HELP OUR PEOPLE IN A TIME OF NEED.

MY HUSBAND SPEAKS TRULY.

KNOWING YOU WILL BE ACCOMPANYING THE GOOD PROFESSOR HONEYCUTT ON SUCH A MONUMENTALLY IMPORTANT TASK GIVES US THE *UTMOST* CONFIDENCE WE WILL SOON BE ABLE TO PUT KRANG'S TYRANNICAL REIGN *BEHIND* US FOREVER.

AND *NONE* TOO SOON, AS IT TURNS OUT.

OUR ALLIES ON THE OUTER PERIMETER HAVE SENT REPORTS RECENTLY THAT THE *MALIGNOID SWARM* IS ON THE MOVE AND QUICKLY APPROACHING THIS PART OF DIMENSION X.

EACH NEW SKIRMISH BRINGS THEIR DESTRUCTION *CLOSER* TO PLANET NEUTRINO, AND PUTTING OUR KRANG PROBLEM TO REST ONCE AND FOR ALL WILL CERTAINLY HELP US FOCUS ON THE *NEW* DANGERS JUST OVER THE HORIZON.

MALIGNA, IT SEEMS, IS DETERMINED TO *FILL* THE TERRIBLE VACUUM LEFT BEHIND BY KRANG'S DEFEAT.

* See **TMNT#56**-B.C.

MALIGNA?

A DISCUSSION FOR *ANOTHER* TIME—

—FORGIVE MY INTERRUPTION, YOUR HIGHNESS, BUT *COUNCILOR APAP* HAS ARRIVED PER YOUR REQUEST.

YES, YES... PLEASE, COUNCILOR APAP, *JOIN* US.

I WOULD HEAR HOW GOES THE *CASE* YOU AND YOUR FELLOW PROSECUTORS ARE BUILDING *AGAINST* KRANG.

FRANKLY, YOUR MAJESTY, WE'RE AT A BIT OF A *STANDSTILL* AT THE MOMENT.

AS YOU KNOW, HAD WE BEEN ABLE TO PROSECUTE THE GENERAL—OR EVEN HIS FATHER QUANIN—*PRIOR* TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THEIR HOME WORLD UTROMINON, WE WOULD HAVE HAD *AMPLE* ACCESS TO DIRECT EVIDENCE AND WILLING WITNESSES AGAINST THEM BOTH.

"THAT IS WHY IT IS SO *VITALLY IMPORTANT* THAT PROFESSOR HONEYCUTT'S MISSION SUCCEED."

WE NEED THESE *KEY WITNESSES* TO TESTIFY IF WE ARE TO HAVE *ANY* CHANCE AT WINNING THE *MAXIMUM* SENTENCE WE ALL KNOW KRANG SO HEINOUSLY DESERVES.

EACH OF THEM, IN THEIR *OWN* WAY, IS PRIVY TO THE DIRT WE NEED TO *BURY* KRANG FOR GOOD.

BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, THIS IS A *DISPARATE* GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS SPREAD OUT OVER A *LARGE SWATH* OF DIMENSION X.

AND, UNLIKE OUR FRIEND LEATHERHEAD HERE, IT'S LIKELY MOST OF THEM WILL *NOT* COME OF THEIR OWN VOLITION.

ON THE CONTRARY, THERE ARE SOME AMONG THEM WHO WOULD *PREFER* THE STATUS QUO TO REMAIN AS IT PERTAINS TO GENERAL KRANG.

YES. IT IS A SAD TRUTH THAT THE KIND OF CHAOS AND UNCERTAINTY A TERRORIST LIKE KRANG CREATES CAN BE EXTREMELY *PROFITABLE* FOR SOME.

DON'T WE *KNOW* IT.

SO, TO ANSWER YOUR QUERY, KING ZENTER, WE ARE BUILDING A CASE, BUT IT REMAINS *PAPER THIN* AND *CIRCUMSTANTIAL* WITHOUT THE WITNESS TESTIMONY.

WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT PROFESSOR HONEYCUTT WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN CONVINCING THEM THAT ULTIMATELY DIMENSION X— AND THEIR OWN LIVES— ARE *SAFER* WITH KRANG BEHIND BARS.

OTHERWISE—

SWKK

HGLLRK!

COUNCILOR APAP!

WHAT THE—?

THERE!

UNDER THE TABLE!

OH, NO YOU DON'T!

YOU AIN'T GOIN' NOWHERE!

FWAK

YOUR MAJESTIES, GET *BEHIND* ME!

KALA AND ZAK! COMMAND ROOM, *STAT!*

ON OUR *WAY*, COMMANDER!

DAMMIT! I *LOST* HIM!

THAT'S OKAY.

SMMSH

I DIDN'T.

HAKK-R!

LEATHERHEAD, BE *CAREFUL!* HE'S—

SLIPPERY.

SPLURCH

GYAHH!

MY EYES!

VERY SLIPPERY.

NICE WEAPONS.

MIND IF I COPY?

NOW, NONE OF YOU LOT ARE ON MY LIST...

...BUT EXCEPTIONS CAN ALWAYS BE MADE.

FZAAK

AAGHH!

COMMANDER, WHAT'S GOING ON?!

MORE OF YOU, EH?

LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE EARNING SOME SERIOUS OVERTIME ON THIS GIG.

HRGKK

YOU'RE NOT THE *ONLY* SLIPPERY ONE.

TOUCHE.

FOOM!

GONE.

NOT JUST *HIM*, EITHER...

...COUNCILOR APAP'S *DEAD.*

WHICH MEANS OUR *CASE* AGAINST KRANG MAY BE DEAD AS WELL. AS IMPORTANT AS THE WITNESSES ARE, POOR APAP WAS THE *BRAIN TRUST* FOR THE PROSECUTION— OUR SUCCESS HINGED ON HIS EXPANSIVE *KNOWLEDGE* OF THE EVIDENCE.

I DON'T KNOW *HOW* WE CAN CONTINUE FORWARD WITHOUT HIM.

BUT, FATHER, WE *CAN'T* JUST GIVE UP.

THE PRINCESS IS *RIGHT*...

...WE'VE ALL COME *TOO FAR* TO QUIT NOW.

PROFESSOR, *YOU* KNOW MORE ABOUT KRANG THAN ANYONE ELSE—THE GOOD *AND* THE BAD, RIGHT?

WELL, I... YES, I SUPPOSE I DO.

THEN I THINK THIS CASE HINGES ON *YOUR* KNOWLEDGE NOW. YOU NEED TO *LEAD* THE PROSECUTION AND MAKE THIS A *WINNABLE* CASE. IF *ANYONE* CAN TAKE KRANG DOWN IN COURT, IT'S YOU.

BUT... THE WITNESSES? **WHO** WILL RETRIEVE THEM?

LEAVE *THAT* TO US.

LATER...

ALL RIGHT, YOU'VE GOT YOUR *COORDINATES* AND YOUR *TIMELINE*...

...IT'S AS *TIGHT* AS IT GETS, BUT I *KNOW* YOU TWO CAN DO IT. YOU BRING OUR FRIENDS AND THOSE WITNESSES *BACK* SAFE AND SOUND AND I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS *HERE*. ROGER THAT?

SIR!

COMMANDER, BE CAREFUL WITH LEATHERHEAD.

I JUST DON'T KNOW IF HE CAN BE *TRUSTED*.

DULY NOTED.

GUYS, PROFESSOR HONEYCUTT GAVE ME THESE. THEY'RE *UNIVERSAL TRANSLATION/ ENVIRONMENTAL MODULATORS*.

KEEP THEM IN YOUR GEAR AND THEY'LL ALLOW US TO SPEAK AND BREATHE NO MATTER *WHERE* WE GO.

PRETTY AMAZING, HUH?

NERD.

OH, MAN, ZAK, THIS BABY'S TOTALLY LIKE A *SPACE HOTROD!*

WELL, MIKEY, IF YOU THINK THIS OL' GIRL *LOOKS PRETTY...*

"...JUST WAIT 'TILL YOU SEE *WHAT* SHE CAN *DO!*"

YEE-HAWWWWWW!!

art by KEVIN EASTMAN
colors by TOMI VARGA

ISSUE #74

art by CORY SMITH
colors by RONDA PATTISON

"NEUTRINO COMMAND, THIS IS RESISTANCE ONE! *MAYDAY! MAYDAY!*

"WE'RE COMING IN HOT WITH CRITICAL ASSETS AND WE'VE GOT *UNINVITED COMPANY—*

"—THE *WORST KIND!*"

SAY AGAIN, *MAYDAY! MAYDAY!*

COPY YOUR MAYDAY, RESISTANCE ONE. REINFORCEMENTS EN ROUTE—ETA FIVE MINUTES.

FIVE MINUTES?! ARE THEY KIDDING?

SOMEBODY WAKE THAT DAMN DUCK UP!

OH, DUDES, I THINK I'M GONNA BE *SICK.*

THEN THINK IT IN THE *OTHER* DIRECTION, MIKEY!

HEY!

YO, ACE! RISE AND SHINE. BEAUTY SLEEP'S *OVER.*

WHA-HUH? ARE WE... ARE WE THERE YET?

YEAH, WE'RE THERE—

—BUT WE *WON'T* BE FOR LONG IF WE DON'T GET SOMEBODY ON THOSE TAIL GUNS!

HOP *TO* IT, MR. DUCK OF ACTION!

"HOP TO IT?" WHAT AM I—*ACE RABBIT?*

ALL RIGHT, YOU NASTY BUGS, GET READY TO BE SWATTED *INFANTRY X-5* STYLE.

SKYBORN, BABY!

OKAY—LOOKS LIKE OUR FINE-FEATHERED FRIEND BOUGHT US A LITTLE SPACE.

YEAH. I JUST HOPE IT'S *ENOUGH* UNTIL HELP GETS HERE, ZAK.

I THINK IT ALREADY HAS, KALA—

—LOOK!

RESISTANCE ONE, THIS IS *COMMANDER ZOM* OF THE TRICERATON SPECIAL FORCES—

—*WE'LL* TAKE CARE OF THINGS OUT HERE.

KING ZENTER'S WAITING FOR *YOU* IN SMADA CITY.

ROGER THAT, COMMANDER ZOM. AND THANKS.

RESISTANCE ONE OUT.

ALL RIGHT, GRUNTS, THIS ISN'T A PLEASURE CRUISE...

...SO *GET* OFF MY SHIP AND *GET* TO WORK!

HA-RAAAH!

"WHOA. LOOK AT 'EM GO..."

...YOU EVER SEEN *ANYTHING* LIKE THAT?

THE TRICERATONS? YEAH, MORE TIMES THAN I CAN COUNT...

...JUST NEVER ON *MY* SIDE.

THEY WERE THE UTROM EMPIRE'S *FAVORITE* CANNON FODDER BEFORE THEY REBELLED. TOUGH SUCKERS.

OL' SLING AND ME WERE RAKING IN SOME *SERIOUS* DOUGH OFF OF ONE OF THOSE TRI-TIPS BACK IN THE DAY—

—BEFORE KRANG UP AND *CONSCRIPTED* HIM INTO HIS ARMY.

I FORGET HIS REAL NAME BUT WE PROMOTED HIM AS *TERROR TIMES THREE*. WHAT A GRAPPLER!

WE MET ONE OF THOSE BIG DINOS BEFORE, TOO, IN SOME CRAZY *BATTLE NEXUS* PLACE. GUY NAMED ZOG.*

EXCEPT THE FIGHTING *THERE* WASN'T FAKE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, *FAKE?*

*See TMNT ANNUAL 2014 – B.C.

ALL I KNOW IS, I'D RATHER BE FIGHTING *WITH* THEM THAN *AGAINST* THEM.

ESPECIALLY IF MALIGNA SENDS HER *WHOLE* ARMY AGAINST NEUTRINO.

WHAT? THAT AIN'T *ALL* OF THEM BACK THERE?

NO WAY, MAN. THOSE WERE JUST ADVANCE SCOUTS...

...WHEN IT COMES TO THOSE BUGS, YOU AIN'T SEEN *NOTHING* YET, TRUST ME.

FRIGGIN' GREAT.

YEAH, WELL, WE CAN WORRY ABOUT *MALIGNA* AND HER *MOB* LATER.

'CAUSE *RIGHT NOW...*

"...WE'RE *FINALLY* HOME."

PLATOON...

ADVANCE!

OH, ALL THOSE SOLDIERS... COMING *THIS* WAY.

I'M SCARED.

DON'T WORRY, LITTLE ONES—I WON'T LET ANYTHING *BAD* HAPPEN TO YOU.

NOBODY HAS TO WORRY. THEY'RE NOT HERE TO *ATTACK*.

CHECK IT OUT.

PLATOON...

INITIATE SHIELD FORMATION!

TALK ABOUT *WITNESS PROTECTION*, HEY?

WORD.

NICE JOB GETTING THE WITNESSES HERE *SAFE* AND *SOUND*, ZAK AND KALA.

THANKS, COMMANDER DASK, BUT WE HAD *PLENTY* OF HELP.

YEAH—BETWEEN HAKK-R AND THOSE DAMN BUGS MAKING TROUBLE FOR US, *NO WAY* WE COULD'VE PULLED THIS OFF WITHOUT THE TURTLES.

ROGER THAT. AND *SPEAKING* OF THE TURTLES, THEY'RE WANTED BACK AT THE CASTLE. YOU TWO ESCORT THEM THERE...

"...THE *REST* OF US WILL GET OUR GUESTS SECURELY SEQUESTERED."

ALL FIVE WITNESSES? THOSE MUTANTS ACTUALLY PULLED IT OFF.

HOW INCONVENIENT.

WELL, CONSIDER THAT A HARD LESSON LEARNED, I SUPPOSE.

TIME TO START GIVING A FEW OF MY OWN.

"I'M SO *HAPPY* YOU MADE IT BACK SAFELY..."

...I WAS WORRIED FOR *ALL* OF YOU THE ENTIRE TIME YOU WERE AWAY.

AWW... IT WAS *NOTHING*, PRINCESS. EASY PEASEY.

EASY? SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, MIKE.

UH, WHAT RAPH AND MIKEY *MEAN* TO SAY IS WE WERE HAPPY TO *HELP*, PRINCESS TRIB.*

*See *TMNT: DIMENSION X # 1-5 – B.C.*

AND I'VE JUST RECEIVED AN **UPDATE** FROM COMMANDER DASK THAT **ALL** THE WITNESSES ARE SECURE NOW AND WAITING TO TESTIFY.

TRULY **IMPRESSIVE** WORK, MY FRIENDS.

THANKS, PROFESSOR, THOUGH FOR A *LITTLE BIT* THERE I THOUGHT IT WAS GONNA BE ALL FOR NOTHING.

WE MIGHT NOT HAVE SURVIVED *RE-ENTRY* IF IT WEREN'T FOR THOSE REINFORCEMENT SHIPS THAT CAME TO FIGHT THE MALIGNA SWARM.

AH, YES, THE TRICERATONS— *FIERCE WARRIORS* ONE AND ALL.

THEY SUFFERED *GREATLY* UNDER THE UTROM EMPIRE AT THE HANDS OF GENERAL KRANG AND HIS DESPOTIC FATHER, AND FOR THAT REASON WE ARE *FORTUNATE* TO CALL THEM ALLIES...

"...AT LEAST FOR *NOW*."

THIS IS COMMANDER ZOM.

WE'VE SUCCESSFULLY *REPELLED* MALIGNA'S PROBING FORCES AND WILL COMMENCE OVERWATCH OPERATIONS PER YOUR REQUEST.

THAT IS *GOOD* TO HEAR, COMMANDER...

...WE ARE *GRATEFUL* FOR YOUR CONTINUED PROFESSIONALISM IN THE FACE OF SUCH GRIM DANGERS.

DID YOU SUFFER ANY LOSSES?

YES. ONE SHIP AND THREE SOLDIERS.

I... I AM *TRULY SORRY* TO HEAR THAT.

AS AM I.

DON'T BE SORRY...

...THEY EACH DIED A WARRIOR'S DEATH. IT'S *WHAT* WE TRICERATONS LIVE AND FIGHT FOR.

HOWEVER, WE GROW TIRED OF FIGHTING *OTHERS'* BATTLES FOR THEM, INCLUDING YOUR CONFLICT WITH MALIGNA AND HER SWARM.

WHICH BRINGS ME TO MY OWN REQUEST TO YOU EARLIER, KING ZENTER—

—HAVE YOU *MADE* A DECISION?

I HAVE.

IF YOUR FORCES CONTINUE TO PROVIDE US ASSISTANCE AGAINST THE MALIGNOID SWARM, I WILL ENSURE THE TRICERATON RACE IS AWARDED A NEW HOME PLANET OF ITS *VERY OWN* UPON COMPLETION OF THE TRIAL AGAINST GENERAL KRANG.

THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.

WE'VE MORE THAN EARNED THE RIGHT TO *AUTONOMY* THROUGH OUR SPILLED BLOOD AND ULTIMATE SACRIFICE.

JUST KNOW, I CONSIDER THIS DECISION *BINDING*, YOUR MAJESTY. IF YOU DO NOT HONOR THE PROMISE YOU'VE MADE TO ME TODAY—TO MY PEOPLE —

—IMPRISONING GENERAL KRANG WILL BE THE *LEAST* OF YOUR WORRIES.

SO, WHAT DO YOU *SAY*, PROFESSOR HONEYCUTT...

...YOU READY TO *WIN* THIS THING AND PUT KRANG AWAY FOR GOOD?

AS READY AS I **CAN** BE, I SUPPOSE. WE HAVE OUR WITNESSES AND WE HAVE OUR EVIDENCE.

NOW WE CAN ONLY HOPE I'M A COMPETENT **SUBSTITUTE** FOR POOR COUNCILOR APAP.*

COME ON, PROFESSOR— COMPETENCY'S YOUR MIDDLE NAME. YOU'VE *GOT* THIS.

THANK YOU, DONATELLO— FOR YOUR CONFIDENCE AND FOR AGREEING TO **ASSIST** ME DURING THE TRIAL. IT'S REASSURING TO KNOW I'M NOT ALL ALONE IN THIS MATTER...

*See **TMNT #73** – B.C.

"...ESPECIALLY WITH THE **ENTIRE** DIMENSION WATCHING."

WHOA, CHECK OUT DONNIE. HE'S A *LEGIT* REALITY TV STAR NOW. SWEET!

HATE TO BURST YOUR BUBBLE, KID, BUT DONNIE *CAN'T* BE THE STAR 'CAUSE THIS AIN'T A *NERD* DOCUMENTARY—

—IT'S MORE LIKE A *FREAK SHOW*.

YEESH. KRANG'S EVEN *UGLIER* ON LIVE TV.

QUIET DOWN, GUYS...

"...IT LOOKS LIKE COMMANDER DASK'S GETTING THINGS STARTED."

ORDER IN THE COURT!

DEPARTMENT ONE OF THE SMADA CITY INTERPLANETARY COURT IS *NOW* IN SESSION FOR THE CASE OF DIMENSION X VERSUS GENERAL KRANG OF UTROMINON.

ALL RISE FOR THE HONORABLE *JUDGE GORATH* OF THE 4TH JUDICIAL COUNCIL.

FOOM

CHOMP

THAT'S THE JUDGE? HE'S UGLIER THAN KRANG.

OH, BUT THIS IS A *GOOD* THING, RAPH.

JUDGE GORATH IS A BIT UNCOUTH, BUT HE'S ALSO A DECORATED VETERAN AND HAS THE REPUTATION FOR BEING TOUGH, *ESPECIALLY* AGAINST WAR CRIMINALS.

WAIT... HE'S ALLOWED TO *EAT* DURING THE TRIAL?

LOOK AT HIM, MIKE...

JUDGE GORATH PRESIDING

"...*WHO'S* GONNA TELL HIM NO?"

THANK YOU, COMMANDER DASK.

EVERYONE SIT DOWN AND LET'S GET THIS *CIRCUS* STARTED.

PROSECUTION, *YOU'RE* UP.

THANK YOU, IN TRUTH I HAVE LITTLE TO SAY, YOUR HONOR.

GENERAL KRANG, THROUGH HIS **OWN** NEFARIOUS DEEDS, HAS BECOME INFAMOUS THROUGHOUT MUCH OF DIMENSION X AND BEYOND.

HIS SELFISH AND ALL-TOO-OFTEN VIOLENT CAMPAIGNS AGAINST HIS COSMIC NEIGHBORS ARE WELL DOCUMENTED AND THERE IS VERY LITTLE I CAN SHARE TODAY THAT IS NOT **ALREADY** GENERAL KNOWLEDGE.

IN SHORT, THE DEFENDANT'S REPUTATION PRECEDES HIM, AND **NOT** IN ANY GOOD WAY.

BUT CRIMES ARE NOT PROSECUTED ON REPUTATION—THEY ARE PROSECUTED ON IDENTIFIABLE AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, **PROVABLE** ILLEGAL ACTIONS.

FOR THAT REASON, WE WILL CALL FORTH A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT WITNESSES DURING THIS TRIAL, **ALL** OF WHOM WILL TESTIFY TO THOSE VERY ACTIONS I HAVE JUST DESCRIBED—DESPICABLE CRIMES COMMITTED AGAINST THEM, OR IN THEIR PRESENCE, BY THE DEFENDANT.

WAR CRIMES, TO BE EXACT.

IN THE END, WE ARE CONFIDENT THE EVIDENCE WILL SPEAK FOR ITSELF, YOUR HONOR, AND THE TRUTH WILL BE **REVEALED** TO ALL...

...AND THE TRUTH IS, GENERAL KRANG OF UTROMINON IS **GUILTY** AS CHARGED.

BAH. SHEER IDIOCY.

NOTED.

ALL RIGHT, DEFENSE... *YOUR* TURN.

THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR. I, TOO, WILL TRY TO KEEP MY REMARKS SUCCINCT.

OUR ESTEEMED PROSECUTOR HAS STATED THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO PROVE ALLEGED CRIMES COMMITTED BY MY CLIENT BASED UPON EVIDENCE AND WITNESSES HE HAS GATHERED FOR THIS TRIAL. HOWEVER, HE FAILED TO MENTION *TWO* IMPORTANT FACTS—

—THE EVIDENCE IS *CIRCUMSTANTIAL* AND THE WITNESSES ARE, AT BEST, *QUESTIONABLE*.

NOW, UNDERSTAND, THERE ARE NONE HERE, INCLUDING MYSELF, WHO BELIEVE MY CLIENT TO BE COMPASSIONATE. ON THE CONTRARY, I *AGREE* WITH MY OPPONENT THAT THE GENERAL'S REPUTATION IS ONE OF A HARD AND, AT TIMES, RECKLESS LEADER. BUT I ALSO BELIEVE THERE IS A *DEFENSIBLE* REASON FOR THAT.

NOW, WERE HIS METHODS *EXTREME?* PERHAPS.

IN THE DYING DAYS OF UTROMINON, MY CLIENT DID ALL IN HIS POWER TO *SAVE* THE LIVES OF AS MANY UTROMS AS HE COULD BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE. AND, IN THE END, HE WAS SUCCESSFUL.

BUT THEY WERE THOSE OF A LEADER WHO REFUSED TO LET HIS PEOPLE GO EXTINCT—THROUGH *NO FAULT* OF HIS OWN BUT THAT OF HIS TYRANNICAL FATHER—WITHOUT A FIGHT.

THE PROSECUTION CALLS MY CLIENT A CRIMINAL, FORGETTING THAT THERE ARE *OTHERS* WHO WOULD CALL HIM SAVIOR.

FURTHERMORE, DESPITE THEIR EXTREMISM, GENERAL KRANG'S ACTIONS WERE IN *ACCORDANCE* WITH THE INTERPLANETARY LAWS OF DIMENSION X AT THE TIME.

YES, THOSE LAWS WERE WRITTEN BY THE UTROM EMPIRE AND HAVE SINCE BEEN AMENDED, BUT THAT WAS *NOT* THE CASE THEN, WHICH MAKES MY CLIENT INNOCENT AND MAKES THIS TRIAL, AS THE GENERAL SO CRUDELY DESCRIBES IT...

...THE *FARCE* OF THE CENTURY.

THAT'S NOT *ALL* I CALL IT.

FARCE, *EH?* WE'LL *SEE* ABOUT THAT.

PROSECUTION, *CALL* YOUR FIRST WITNESS.

GLADLY, YOUR HONOR. THE PROSECUTION CALLS...

...B'EEN GO OF THE PLANET GO'MO.

FOOM

EEEK!

WHY, YOU LITTLE DIRTY BALL OF—

IT'S OKAY, B'EEN GO...

...THE GENERAL CANNOT **HARM** YOU WHILE YOU ARE IN THE WITNESS CAPSULE.

OH... OKAY. I BELIEVE YOU.

GOOD. NOW, I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A FEW **BRIEF** QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD, IF YOU DON'T MIND?

NO. I DON'T MIND.

WOULD I BE CORRECT IN DESCRIBING YOU AS AN **EMPATH?**

YES. MY ENTIRE RACE ARE EMPATHS, ABLE TO SENSE EMOTIONS IN OTHER BEINGS. IT'S HOW I KNEW YOU WERE TELLING THE TRUTH WHEN YOU SAID I WAS SAFE HERE.

INDEED. AND IT WAS YOUR PEOPLE'S CAPACITY AS EMPATHS THAT DREW THE DEFENDANT'S ATTENTION TO YOUR PLANET, CORRECT?

GENERAL KRANG? YES—

"—HE ENSLAVED MANY OF US AND FORCED US TO EVALUATE PRISONERS' EMOTIONAL STATES WHILE HE TORTURED THEM."

INCLUDING YOURSELF?

YES. IT WAS AWFUL. ALL THAT PAIN AND EMOTIONAL TRAUMA, IT...

...IT NEARLY BROKE ME.

NO MORE QUESTIONS, YOUR HONOR.

GOOD— BECAUSE *I* HAVE A FEW.

GULP.

SIR, YOU CLAIM TO HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED BY MY CLIENT, BUT IS IT NOT TRUE THAT GENERAL KRANG WAS NOT ***PRESENT*** ON THE TRANSPORT VESSEL THAT TOOK YOU AWAY FROM YOUR HOME PLANET?

UM... HE WASN'T ON THE SHIP, NO, BUT HE MUST HAVE GIVEN THE ORD—

AND IS IT TRUE THAT DURING YOUR TIME IN THE GENERAL'S SERVICE, THE EXAMINATION METHODS YOU WERE WITNESS TO WERE ***OFFICIALLY*** DEEMED "ADVANCED INTERROGATION TECHNIQUES" PER DIMENSIONAL LAW?

YES, BUT... YOU WEREN'T THERE. WHAT I SAW WAS TOR—

NO FURTHER QUESTIONS.

I'M SORRY.

FOOM

THE PROSECUTION CALLS *ANEMON* OF AKEBONO.

FROM

FORMERLY OF AKEBONO.

YES, I'M SORRY— FORMERLY OF AKEBONO. AND WHY IS THAT, SIR?

WHY? *KRANG* IS WHY.

HE *TRICKED* ME INTO SERVING HIM—LED ME TO BELIEVE THAT IF I ACTED AS HIS GLORIFIED GOON, HE'D LEAVE MY PLANET AND MY PEOPLE IN PEACE.

HE *LIED*.

"AND I LOST *EVERYTHING* I EVER LOVED TO A FIERY DEATH AS A RESULT."

IT WAS *MY* FAULT. I BELIEVED HIM AND HIS FALSE PROMISES.

I WAS A FOOL.

I AM TRULY **SORRY** FOR YOUR LOSS, SIR.

NO FURTHER QUESTIONS.

SIR, WOULD YOU KINDLY READ THE ***BOTTOM LINE*** OF THIS CONTRACTUAL DOCUMENT FOR THE COURT?

UM... THE WRITING'S PRETTY SMALL. I CAN'T REALLY ***SEE*** IT TOO WELL.

HM. YES—FINE PRINT DOES TEND TO BE RATHER DIFFICULT TO READ. AND OFTEN *OVERLOOKED* AS A RESULT.

PERHAPS YOUR... "FRIEND" WOULD LIKE TO COME *CLOSER* FOR A BETTER VIEW?

EXHIBIT

GO AHEAD, *EYMO.*

OKAY... I CAN *SEE* IT NOW. IT SAYS, "IN ANY OR ALL LEGAL ACTIONS LEVIED AGAINST GENERAL KRANG, I, ANEMON OF AKEBONO, HEREBY DECLARE ANY TESTIMONY I MAY BE REQUIRED TO GIVE REGARDING SAID ACTIONS AS NULL, VOID, AND INVALID."

INTERESTING. AND DO YOU RECOGNIZE THE *SIGNATURE* BELOW THIS DECLARATION?

YES.

IT'S *YOURS*, PAL.

SORRY.

OH, NO.

OH, YES.

I HAVE NO MORE QUESTIONS FOR THE WITNESS... ER, *WITNESSES.*

FOOM

NEXT.

THE PROSECUTION CALLS... **STUMP** OF STUMP ASTEROID.

FOOM

HEY, SUPERSTAR DONNIE! HOW'S IT *HANGIN'*, STUMP THUMPER?

STUMP THUMPER...?

HEH. HI.

SIR, I REALIZE YOU HAVE A PAST, *UH*... RELATIONSHIP WITH MY ASSOCIATE, BUT FOR NOW, PLEASE **LIMIT** YOUR ATTENTION TO ANSWERING MY QUESTIONS TRUTHFULLY.

YEAH, SURE, NO PROBLEM. ASK AWAY.

THANK YOU—I WILL.

IS IT NOT TRUE THAT YOUR HOME PLANET WAS **DECIMATED** BY GENERAL KRANG?

CLEAR-CUT, AS IT WERE, WITH **NOTHING** LEFT IN THE DEFENDANT'S DESTRUCTIVE WAKE BUT UNINHABITABLE DESOLATION?

YES, THAT'S TRUE. IT WAS *ALL* VERY SAD.

PLEASE ELABORATE, SIR.

WELL, THING IS, WHEN WE *FIRST* MADE THE DEAL WITH KRANG, INTERSTELLAR REAL ESTATE VALUES WERE PEAKING.

BUT BY THE TIME WE GOT PAID, THAT BUBBLE HAD BURST AND WE ENDED SETTLING FOR *WAY LESS* THAN WE WERE ASKING FOR.

DID YOU SAY... DEAL?

YEAH— BETWEEN KRANG AND ME AND MY PARTNER SLING. FOR MY PLANET'S *LUMBER RIGHTS*.

I MEAN, WE STILL MADE A PRETTY PENNY WHEN ALL WAS SAID AND DONE... WE WERE JUST HOPING IT WAS GONNA BE *A LOT* PRETTIER.

BY THE CREATOR.

NO MORE QUESTIONS.

*UM... WE'RE **SATISFIED**, YOUR HONOR.*

HEH.

THIS ISN'T GOING SO GOOD, *IS* IT, PROFESSOR?

UNFORTUNATELY, NO, DONATELLO.

WHICH MEANS IT'S **TIME** FOR MY SECRET WEAPON.

YOUR HONOR, THE PROSECUTION WOULD LIKE TO CALL ITS NEXT WITNESS.

LEATHERHEAD OF PLANET EARTH.

WHAT?!

FOOM

HELLO, SIR. AND THANK YOU FOR COMING.

ARE YOU **PREPARED** TO ANSWER MY QUESTIONS?

ABSOLUTELY...

...EACH AND *EVERY* ONE.

BLAST YOU, VIN-BINI! HOW DID YOU NOT *KNOW* ABOUT THIS?

THE EARTHLING WAS NOT *ON* THE WITNESS LIST, GENERAL. I—

ALERT! ALERT! PLANET NEUTRINO IS UNDER ATTACK!

TAKE SHELTER IMME-DIATELY!

ALL RIGHT, COMMANDER DASK, YOU *HEARD* 'EM. GET EVERYONE OUT OF HERE AND GET TO YOUR TROOPS—

—SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE GOT SOME *WORK* TO DO.

UNDERSTOOD, YOUR HONOR.

NO. NOOO!

"WELL, LOOKS LIKE THE TRIAL OF THE CENTURY'S GONNA HAVE TO *WAIT*..."

...AT LEAST WHILE WE'VE GOT A *SWARM* TO FIGHT.

YOUR MAJESTIES, WITH *YOUR* PERMISSION...

OF COURSE, KALA. *REPORT* TO YOUR BATTLE STATIONS.

AND MAY THE CREATOR *PROTECT* YOU ALL.

COMMANDER DASK, THIS IS KALA. ZAK AND I ARE ON OUR WAY. DON'T START THE WAR *WITHOUT* US.

YO! WHAT ABOUT US?

YOU AIN'T PLANNIN' ON LEAVIN' *US* OUTTA THE FIGHT, ARE YA?

RAPH'S RIGHT. WE'RE *READY* TO DO OUR PART.

WELL, THEN QUIT STANDIN' AROUND AND LET'S GET *MOVING*, DADDY-O'S.

TIME TO GET BUSY *SMASHING* SOME BUGS.

MIKEY, PLEASE BE CAREFUL. MALIGNA AND HER SWARM ARE *NOT* TO BE UNDERESTIMATED.

DON'T WORRY, PRINCESS. WE'RE THE GLORIOUS *HEROES* OF THE KRANG WAR, REMEMBER?

WE'VE *TOTALLY* GOT THIS.

AH, THERE YOU ARE...

JUDGE GORATH
4TH JUDICIAL COUNCIL

...I HOPE YOU DIDN'T GET TOO COLD WHILE I WAS AWAY.

RRIIIP

Sniiff

MMMM... SMELLS SO GOOD.

OH, I AGREE. BUT BE CAREFUL OF THE BONE, JUDGE.

HRGRLLLK!

YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO CHOKE TO DEATH.

art by KEVIN EASTMAN
colors by TOMI VARGA

TMNT
GHOSTBUSTERS 2 #1

art by DAN SCHOENING
colors by LUIS ANTONIO DELGADO

LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY.

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU *THINK* YOU CAN GET DONE BY THURSDAY, BILL, I NEED THE PROJECT COMPLETED *TOMORROW.*

WELL, THAT'S WHY WE CALL THEM *DEADLINES,* BILL.

OH, FOR—

SPLORCH

NOT *YOU.* I THINK I JUST STEPPED IN SOMETHING.

YES, BILL, I *KNOW* THERE ARE SCOOPER LAWS, I—

YEEEEEEEEEE!

WELL, THAT SOUNDS LIKE OUR *CUE*...

SHPLAAAGGG

WHAT—

HSSSSSS!

AH, AH, AH. NOT SO FAST, MY FRIEND! IT'S TIME TO *PAY* THE CHECK.

SHZAK

TRAP OUT!

FLIP

VWOORP

WHAT *WAS* THAT? I FEEL... SO *GOOD*...

JUST A LITTLE CONCENTRATED MOOD SLIME.

NOTHING TO BE *CONCERNED* ABOUT—I HAD TO MAKE SURE THAT LITTLE BUGGER DIDN'T ATTEMPT A FORCED POSSESSION, AND—

...HELLO?

HANG ON, BILL.

SAY! GHOSTBUSTER! CAN I BUY SOME OF THAT PINK STUFF?

NOPE. YOU HAVE A NICE DAY NOW, MA'AM.

OH, MAN. I FEEL DEAD.

YOU *DO* LOOK A LITTLE ROUGH.

YEAH, I DUNNO, MAN. MAYBE I'M A LITTLE BURNT OUT?

I HEAR YA. AS MUCH AS I LOVE THIS CITY AND ALL ITS CHARMS, I COULD SURE USE A GOOD CHANGE OF PACE.

SOMETHING LIKE THE SCANDINAVIAN WARLOCK CASE, WITH ALL THE GLOBETROTTING... THAT'S *JUST* THE RIGHT KIND OF THING FOR MY MONEY.

YOU NEED HELP, RAY—*PROFESSIONAL* HELP—AND I'M MORE THAN QUALIFIED TO PROVIDE IT. I'LL EVEN GIVE YOU A DISCOUNT ON MY RATE. Y'KNOW, AS A FRIEND.

PASS.

WHAT? I HAVE A *LEGITIMATE* DEGREE. I MISS USING IT.

OH, COME ON, *ANOTHER* CALL? ALREADY?

BZEEP BZEEP

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

I MEAN, WE ALL KNOW THAT PSYCHOKINETIC ENERGY—AND SO THEN, GHOSTS—MAKE UP THE INSULATION ***BETWEEN*** DIMENSIONAL PLANES.

WELL ***YOU'VE*** SURE TOLD US ENOUGH.

AHEM. SOME EXTRA POPPED ***THROUGH*** WHEN WE UNCOUPLED OUR OWN DIMENSION FROM THE ONE IT WAS STUCK TO, RESULTING IN A BUSIER—WE'RE GOING TO MURRAY HILL, BY THE WAY—A ***BUSIER*** PERIOD OF WORK.

CAN'T HELP YOURSELF, CAN YOU? WAS YOUR MOTHER ***ALSO*** INTO EXPOSITION?

STOP IT.

YOU KNOW, YOU'VE BEEN SAYING THIS "INSULATION BETWEEN DIMENSIONS" STUFF FOR ***YEARS***. MAKES ME WONDER.

DON'T YOU ***DARE*** WIND HIM UP, WINSTON.

I'M SERIOUS. COULD THAT INSULATION BE ***PURGATORY?*** OR SOMETHING LIKE IT?

I DON'T KNOW! I MEAN, THERE ***ARE*** MAYBE SOME POCKETS WITH ENOUGH OF A CONSCIOUSNESS TO RESEMBLE THAT—

"—WOULDN'T IT BE *NEAT* TO FIND OUT?"

NO!

THIS... THIS CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO STAND. LOOK!

THAT DAMNED MUTANT RODENT AND HIS NINJAS HAVE TAKEN OVER HALF THE CITY! MY CITY!

DARIUS, I'M REALLY STARTING TO REGRET SHOWING YOU HOW TO LOOK IN ON YOUR OLD STOMPING GROUNDS.

MOST OF US ONLY WATCH OVER FAMILY AND FRIENDS, YOU KNOW?

DON'T PATRONIZE ME, BRONSON! THAT MONSTROSITY HAD ME KILLED AND THEN STOLE EVERYTHING I BUILT.

HE TOOK MY LEGACY.

THAT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN FAMILY.

I'D GO TO ANY LENGTH TO EVEN THE SCORE.

IF I COULD JUST REACH THROUGH THESE MAGIC WINDOWS OF YOURS, I'D... BAH!

WELL, I MEAN, I MIGHT KNOW OF A WAY TO REACH BACK OUT AND GET REVENGE, I GUESS, BUT—

NO! NO BUTS, YOU INFERNAL CREATURE! TELL ME.

LOOK, I'VE BEEN HERE A WHILE... I'VE HEARD ABOUT BEINGS WHO CAN TRAVEL THROUGH DIMENSIONS AT WILL. THEY EXIST ONLY TO HUNT AND TO CAPTURE, AND THEY—

SAY NO MORE. HOW DO I CONTACT THEM?

DARIUS, YOU DON'T WANT TO RUSH INTO THIS.

THERE'S AN AWFUL COST TO SUMMONING THEM, EVEN FOR GHOSTS.

BLAST YOUR COST. NO PRICE COULD BE TOO HIGH FOR THIS.

"HE DISRESPECTED ME. HE ORDERED MY DEATH. HE TOOK OVER MY LIFE'S WORK.

"I WILL STRIKE HIM WHERE IT HURTS THE MOST, AND I WILL WATCH HIM WRITHE AND SUFFER UNTIL HE BEGS FOR MERCY...

"...AND THEN I WILL FORCE HIM TO SUFFER YET AGAIN."

NOW, I'LL ONLY ASK YOU ONCE MORE...

...HOW DO I GET IN TOUCH WITH THESE ENTITIES?

MUCH LATER, AND SEVERAL DIMENSIONAL PLANES AWAY...

HOW ABOUT NOW?

NAH, THAT'S ***NO GOOD***. HAND ME THE PLIERS, WOULDJA? *UHHH*... NEEDLENOSE.

I WISH RECALIBRATING THIS SENSOR ARRAY SET-UP TO ***MONITOR*** EMERGENT EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL INCURSIONS WAS AS EASY AS FINDING A WORKING SECURITY MEASURE FOR OUR ***OWN*** TRANS-DIMENSIONAL PORTAL...

I FEEL THE LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY ***IS*** COMPARABLE.

I WAS ***BEING*** SARCASTIC!

STILL.

WELL, ***THAT'S*** DONE. NOW WE JUST NEED TO—

BDEEP EEP

BDEEP EEP EEP

UH...

FWASHHH

BEEP BEEP BEEP

WHAT WAS THAT?

SOMETHING'S TRYING TO CROSS OVER–

FWASHHH

–LOOK!

I MADE IT!

DONATELLO?

WHAT ARE YOU *DOING* HERE? WHAT HAPPENED?

HI, RAY... AND, WELL, THE *SHORT* VERSION IS, MY BROTHERS AND I WERE JUST ATTACKED...

"WE WERE ABOUT TO RETURN TO OUR NEW YORK FROM DIMENSION X, THIS PLACE THAT... WELL, ***THAT'S*** A LONG STORY. POINT IS, WE WERE ABOUT TO GO HOME.

"THAT'S WHEN WE HEARD THIS... CREEPY LAUGHTER.

"WE SAW SOME KIND OF... I GUESS ***EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL ENTITIES*** FLOATING IN FRONT OF US.

"MIKEY WANTED TO HANG BACK AND SAY HELLO...

"AT FIRST, THEY LOOKED ALMOST LIKE PEOPLE, AND WE WONDERED IF THEY WERE A KIND OF DIMENSION X NATIVE THAT WE HADN'T ***MET*** YET.

"UNTIL THEY MORPHED INTO... WELL, ***SCARY VERSIONS OF US!***

"WE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO PROCESS HOW WEIRD THIS WAS—EVEN FOR ***US***—BEFORE WE WERE ATTACKED.

"THEY WERE CLUMSY, BUT IT DIDN'T MATTER—

"—BECAUSE WE COULDN'T TOUCH THEM."

DIDN'T TAKE MUCH TO REALIZE WE'D NEED ***HELP***, SO I RESET THE TRANSPORTER'S CONTROLS TO POINT HERE.

YOU KNEW OUR SPECIFIC DIMENSIONAL COORDINATES OFF THE ***TOP*** OF YOUR HEAD?

WELL, WE ***HAVE*** KEPT IN TOUCH.

BUT TELL US MORE ABOUT THESE ***ENTITIES***. THEY SOUND... FAMILIAR.

WELL, I—

BDEEP EEP EEP KCHK

FOUND YOU.

OH NO!

THE COLLECTORS—?!

I THOUGHT THEY WERE *GONE!*

OUR ENCOUNTER WITH THEM ENDED ***WITHOUT*** A ***FINAL RESOLUTION***, RAY.

THAT'S RIGHT—YOU'RE RIGHT. THEY WERE JUST CALLED ***BACK*** TO THEIR OWN PLANE OF EXISTENCE. WELL, THEY CAN PAY THE PIPER NOW!

SUCK ON MODIFIED PARTICLES, MONOCHROMATIC MENACES!

SHZAAK

WE REMEMBER YOU.

GUYS, *HELP!*

THE MUTANTS ARE OURS...

...STAY OUT OF THIS, OR WE WILL TURN OUR ATTENTION BACK TO YOU.

-*SIGH*- BETTER CALL THE OTHERS.

ARE YOU MESSING WITH ME RIGHT NOW?!

NO. THE VERY SAME EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL ENTITIES THAT ONCE ABDUCTED *US* HAVE APPARENTLY TARGETED OUR *NINJA FRIENDS*.

THE QUESTION IS *WHY?* I MEAN, WHO'D SEND THAT KIND OF FIREPOWER AFTER THE TURTLES? IT'S PRACTICALLY ABSURD!

TEENAGE. MUTANT. NINJA. TURTLES, RAY. WHY DRAW THE ABSURDITY LINE AT DEMONS? I MEAN, DIDN'T THEY BRING ONE *WITH* THEM WHEN WE MET? BIG BULL LOOKIN' FELLA?

BACK ON POINT, PETE. HOW DO *WE* HELP? I DON'T WANT TO SEE THOSE KIDS STUCK IN LIMBO.

THE COLLECTORS LEFT BEHIND TRACE ECTOPLASM WHEN THEY CAME FOR DONATELLO. A SIMPLE ANALYSIS SHOULD YIELD THE DIMENSIONAL FREQUENCY FOR THEIR PRISON DIMENSION... THOUGH I ADMIT, THE THOUGHT OF OPENING THAT DOOR MAKES ME, *AH, UNEASY.*

SEVERAL MUSCLE GROUPS ARE CURRENTLY CONTRACTING IN A *VERY* UNCOMFORTABLE MANNER.

YOURS AND MINE BOTH. WE *STILL* GOT A PROBLEM, THOUGH.

EVEN IF WE GET THE TURTLES OUT, THE COLLECTORS ARE JUST GONNA COME AFTER THEM AGAIN—AND OUR *GEAR* DIDN'T HAVE MUCH OF AN EFFECT ON THEM BEFORE.

THIS IS ON RAY. IT'S *HIS* FAULT. THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU ASK THE UNIVERSE FOR MORE ADVENTURE, RAY.

YEAH, YEAH—MAYBE. BUT DON'T WORRY—

"—I THINK I KNOW *JUST* WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE!"

DONNIE!

THUD

DUDE! DID YOU GET HELP?

HEY! HE *MIGHT* HAVE!

DOES IT *LOOK* LIKE HE GOT HELP, MIKE?

DID YA?

WELL, I *DID* GET TO THE GHOSTBUSTERS, BUT...

BUT *NOTHIN'*, RIGHT? I FREAKIN' KNEW IT!

RELAX, RAPH.

RELAX?! IN CASE YOU MISSED IT, WE'RE STUCK IN SOME KINDA *GHOST JAIL*, LEO!

YES, WE ARE. AND WE ALL NEED TO REMAIN CALM, GET OUR BEARINGS, CHART THE TERRITORY, AND START WORKING ON AN *ESCAPE PLAN.*

THERE ISN'T ONE.

YOU FOUR WON'T BE GETTING OUT OF HERE. EVER.

I'M GOING TO BREAK YOU AND, IN DOING SO, I WILL BREAK YOUR FATHER'S HEART.

WAIT... WHAT? FATHER?

WHO EVEN *ARE* YOU, DUDE?

I'M THE MAN WHO REFUSED TO BOW TO THE FOOT CLAN...

...AND I'M THE MAN WHO DIED FOR IT.

THAT'S— IT'S *DARIUS DUN!*

NO!

AMAZING, ISN'T IT? I MUST ADMIT, THERE ARE SOME DEFINITE ADVANTAGES TO MY GHOSTLY STATUS.

I CAN WATCH THE WORLD OF THE LIVING ANY TIME I WANT. ALL THE WHILE PLANNING ONE HELL OF A REVENGE AGAINST MY ENEMIES.

HAHA HA!

AND YOU FOUR—YOU'RE WHAT THAT RAT LOVES MOST.

MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD, YOU'RE HIS HEART.

THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HERE.

YOUR FATHER WILL NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN. EVEN IF HE SCOURS THE EARTH, HE WON'T FIND YOU.

INSTEAD, HE'LL GROW OLD AND DESPERATE, THEN WITHER AND DIE WITHOUT EVER KNOWING WHAT HAPPENED... AND THIS WILL DESTROY HIM.

AND I'LL WITNESS IT ALL, EACH TORTUROUS MOMENT... EVERY NEW PAIN INFLICTED, BRINGING ME ONE STEP CLOSER TO VENGEANCE.

WHEN SPLINTER IS DEAD AT LAST—IF YOU FOUR LAST THAT LONG—PERHAPS I'LL RELEASE YOU THEN.

OR... PERHAPS NOT.

HAHA HA HAHA HA HA

HE CAN'T BE SERIOUS—THAT COULD BE *DECADES!*

HE'S NOT GONNA LEAVE US HERE FOR *THAT* LONG... IS HE?

GUY'S A STINKIN' *NUTJOB.*

HE'S *ANGRY*, RAPH. AND AFTER WHAT HAPPENED WITH FATHER THE *LAST* TIME WE SAW HIM, I CAN'T SAY HIS ANGER ISN'T JUSTIFIED.

BUT THAT'S THE PAST, AND IT'S *NOT* GONNA HELP US NOW.

WE NEED TO FIND FOOD, WATER, AND SHELTER IN CASE WE'RE HERE FOR A WHILE.

I'VE GOT A *BETTER* IDEA—

—WHY DON'T *WE* GET YOU GUYS OUT OF HERE?

YES! ALL RIGHT, DONNIE! *YOU TOTALLY CAME THROUGH!*

YEAH— NICE WORK, NERD BRO.

LET'S JUST GET OUT OF HERE AND WE CAN—*HUH?*

I'M AFRAID IT'S NOT GONNA BE *QUITE* THAT SIMPLE.

PUT *THIS* ON, AND THEN STEP THROUGH.

EGON'LL FILL YOU IN. THE *REST* OF YOU... HANG BACK A BIT.

HANG BACK? *WHAT'S* GOING ON, WINSTON?

IT'S COMPLICATED, MAN. THOSE THINGS THAT GRABBED YOU? WE'VE DEALT WITH 'EM BEFORE.

IF WE'RE GONNA GET YOU OUT OF HERE *PERMANENTLY*, IT'LL TAKE SOME DOING.

AND WAIT'LL I TELL YOU *JUST HOW MUCH DOING* IT'S *GONNA TAKE...!*

EGON! YOU DID IT! I—

WAIT. ALL THIS STUFF *WASN'T* HERE BEFORE.

NO. LET'S GO UPSTAIRS.

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE HELMET?

I'M ASSUMING IT KEEPS THE GLOWING MONSTERS FROM FINDING ME, BUT *WHY* DIDN'T YOU SEND MORE FOR THE OTHERS?

THE HELMETS ARE PART OF A *FAILED* PSYCHIC COMMUNICATION SYSTEM RAY AND I REPURPOSED.

NOW, *TO THE COLLECTORS*, YOU'LL READ AS *WINSTON*, AND VICE VERSA—AND THEY'LL THINK YOU TURTLES *ARE ALL STILL TRAPPED.*

BUT THEY'LL FIGURE OUT THE SWITCH SOONER OR LATER.

I SEE. IT'S TEMPORARY *CAMOUFLAGE.*

CORRECT. YOU'D ALL NEED STAND-INS TO KEEP THE ILLUSION ALIVE, AND EVEN SO, THEY'D SEE THROUGH THE RUSE EVENTUALLY.

IF WE WANT TO FREE YOU ALL FROM THE THREAT OF THE COLLECTORS, WE NEED TO TAKE THEM *OUT* OF THE EQUATION— PERMANENTLY.

I HAVE AN IDEA ON HOW TO DO THAT, BUT IT INVOLVES QUESTIONS ABOUT TRANSDIMENSIONAL MECHANICS THAT *YOU'RE* BETTER EQUIPPED TO ANSWER THAN RAY. THAT'S WHY WE SWAPPED YOU OUT.

HANG ON—IF *WINSTON* IS MY STAND-IN SO THE COLLECTORS THINK I'M THERE, WHAT DID *RAY* AND *PETER* GO OVER FOR?

THEY'RE THERE AS A *DISTRACTION.*

"AS I SAID, GIVEN TIME, THE COLLECTORS WOULD EASILY SEE THROUGH THE CRUDE RUSE THE HELMETS PROVIDE, SO TIME IS SOMETHING WE *CAN'T* GIVE THEM.

"THE GAUNTLETS PROVIDE A DIRECT LINK TO OUR *OWN* TRANSDIMENSIONAL PORTAL—

"—ALLOWING *REMOTELY ACCESSED JUMPS.* THESE JUMPS WILL FURTHER OBSCURE YOUR PRESENCE HERE."

"YOU SEE, WHILE IT'S TRUE THE COLLECTORS CAN EASILY TRAVEL TO ANY DIMENSION, THEY *DO* HAVE A WEAKNESS—

"—THEY WORK AS A *SINGLE UNIT.*

"SO, *THREE* DIFFERENT TRAILS, RANDOMLY HOPPING THROUGH THE DIMENSIONS..."

...IT MAKES THINGS *HARDER* FOR THEM TO TRACK, AND *SLOWS* THEM DOWN! I FOLLOW!

IF WE'RE LUCKY, IT KEEPS THE COLLECTORS FROM SENSING YOUR PRESENCE HERE, AND GIVES US ENOUGH TIME TO CONSTRUCT A MEANS OF CONTAINING THEM *PERMANENTLY.*

TIME WORKS ON *ANOTHER* SCALE IN THE PRISON DIMENSION, DONATELLO. FROM MY PERSPECTIVE...

HANG ON, REMOTE PORTAL ACCESS... THESE HELMET MODS... *WHEN* DID YOU—I WAS ONLY HERE A FEW MINUTES AGO!

...IT'S BEEN ROUGHLY *THREE WEEKS.*

MAN, SOMETIMES I *HATE* QUANTUM PHYSICS.

YOU *CAN'T* MEAN THAT.

-SIGH- NOT REALLY. IT'S JUST BEEN ABOUT A *MONTH* OF LONG DAYS, AND I'M READY FOR THEM TO BE *OVER*.

WELL, I HATE TO BE THE BEARER OF BAD NEWS—

—BUT I'VE HAD A *SIMULATION RUNNING* TO *PREDICT* HOW LONG THE OTHERS COULD *SUCCESSFULLY EVADE THE COLLECTORS*.

I WAS HOPING IT WOULD BE FINISHED SOONER...

HANG ON—

SIMULATION COMPLETE

PROJECTED TIME OF DISCOVERY:

5 HRS

PROJECTED TIME OF CHASE:

VARIABLE. MINIMUM 8H. MAXIMUM 19H TO CAPTURE OF 1 OR MORE GROUPS

WINSTON

GAUNTLET PWR 92%

GAUNTLET PWR 94%

GAUNTLET PWR 91%

—THIS SIMULATION GIVES THEM LESS THAN A DAY!

CAN WE *WARN* THEM?

WE CAN COMMUNICATE, BUT IT'S *NOT INSTANTANEOUS*, AND IT TAKES A GREAT DEAL OF POWER. I'D RATHER WAIT UNTIL THE *LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT*.

WHICH, AS YOU NOTICED, *WON'T* BE LONG.

WELL IN *THAT* CASE...

SPENGLER

...LET'S GET TO WORK!

art by DAVE WACHTER

TMNT
GHOSTBUSTERS 2 #2

art by DAN SCHOENING
colors by LUIS ANTONIO DELGADO

"I REALLY AM AMAZED AT THE ***MODIFICATIONS*** YOU AND RAY MADE TO THE TRANS-DIMENSIONAL PORTAL. THE CAPABILITIES IT HAS NOW—I HARDLY RECOGNIZE IT AS THE ***SAME*** TECHNOLOGY!"

RAY! HIT THE BUTTON! ***HIT THE BUTTON!***

IT'S BUILDING UP A ***CHARGE!*** WAIT FOR IT!

WAIT FOR IT?!

OH, LOOK. HERE SHE IS.

CLAK

SWASHH

"I MEAN MULTI-POINT, MULTIDIMENSIONAL REMOTE ACCESS? DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH TROUBLE THAT WOULD HAVE ***SAVED*** US RECENTLY?"

"WELL, THERE *ARE* SOME PRONOUNCED DRAWBACKS TO THE NEW FUNCTIONALITY."

WHERE ARE—WAIT, THIS *PLACE* SEEMS... FAMILIAR?

EXIT

SKRAAAAWWW

UH-OH. HANG TIGHT, MAN. WE SCARED UP *ANOTHER* GHOST.

"SCARED UP." WAS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A *JOKE?*

WHAT? I CAN BE FUNNY.

"OUR MODIFICATIONS HAVE THE *UNINTENDED SIDE-EFFECT* OF CHURNING UP THE PSYCHOKINETIC ENERGY THAT IS PLENTIFUL BETWEEN DIMENSIONS. OPENING A BREACH OFTEN PULLS GHOSTS *OUT* OF THE WOODWORK."

CHZAAAK

EEEEEE—

SPLOP

I DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD *BLOW* THEM *UP.*

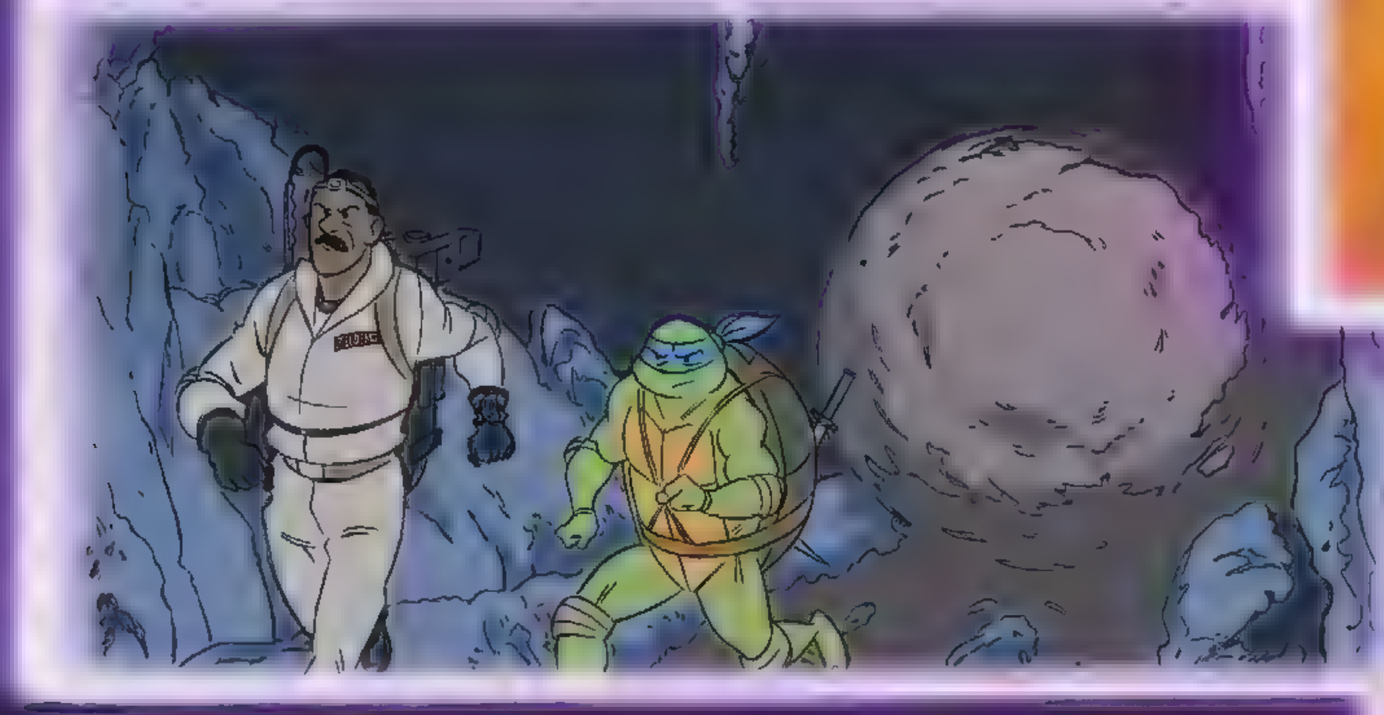
IT'S ONLY *TEMPORARY,* MY MAN.

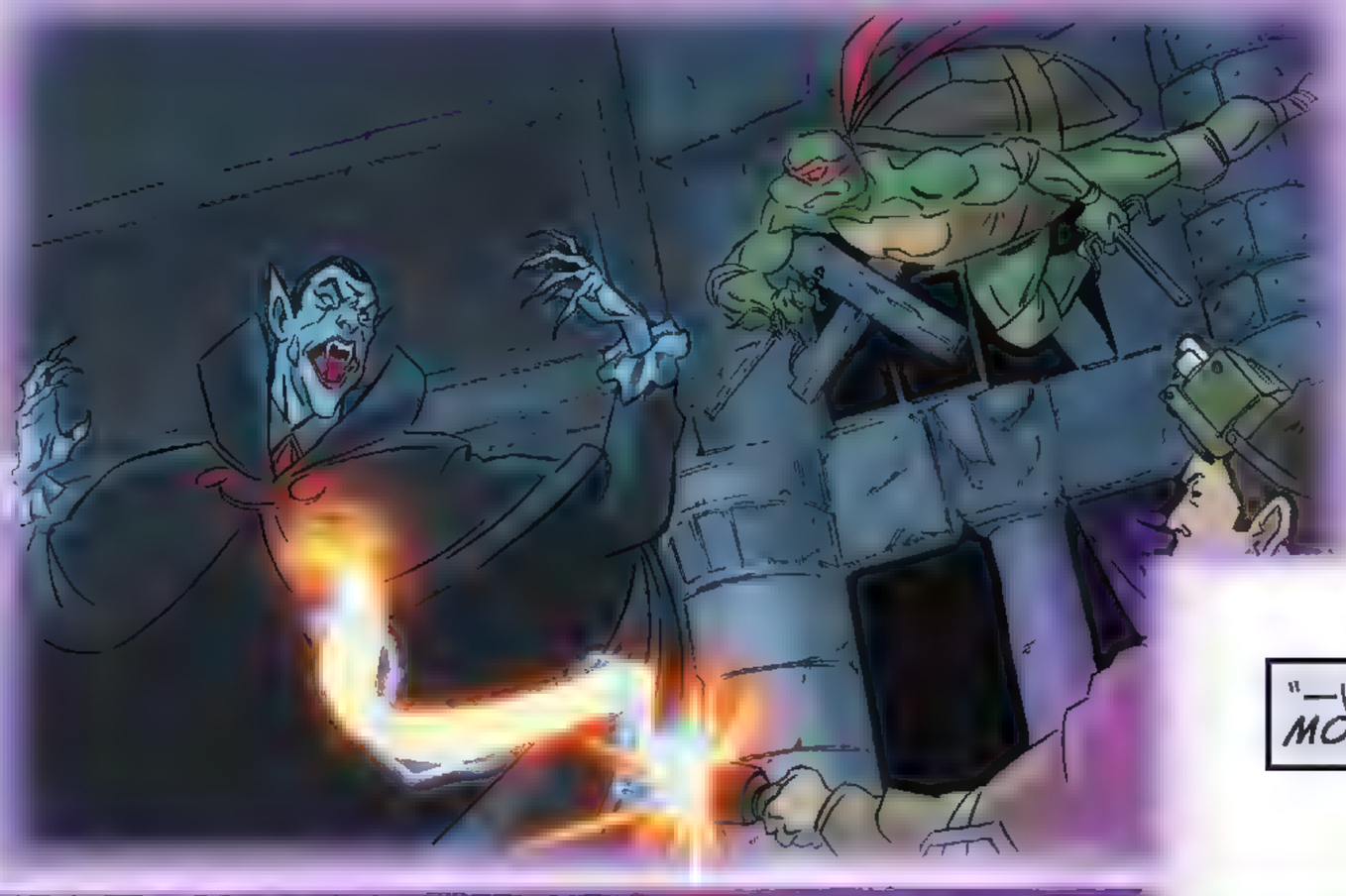
BESIDES— THE NUMBER OF TRAPS WE'D'VE NEEDED WOULD BE TOO HEAVY TO *RUN* WITH.

EXIT

"WHICH IS *WHY* WE PAIRED YOUR BROTHERS WITH MY COLLEAGUES TO *BEGIN* WITH."

"AND JUMPING FROM DIMENSION TO DIMENSION IN RAPID SUCCESSION, AS THEY'RE DOING TO ***EVADE*** THE DEMONS CHASING YOU AND YOUR BROTHERS—





"—WELL, IT'S SURE TO ATTRACT ***EVEN MORE*** GHOSTLY ATTENTION THAN USUAL."

SO YOU'RE SAYING IT *LITERALLY* CAUSES A GREAT DISTURBANCE IN THE FORCE?

I'M NOT GOING TO *DIGNIFY* THAT WITH A RESPONSE.

LOOK... I LOVE A GOOD, COMPLICATED PLAN AS MUCH AS THE *NEXT* GUY—

—WELL, I MEAN, IF THE NEXT GUY IS *LEO*—

BUT YOU AND RAY *REALLY* SEEMED TO CATCH ON TO THIS TRANS-DIMENSIONAL TECHNOLOGY.

I'M NOT SURE WHY YOU NEEDED TO GO TO ALL THIS TROUBLE JUST TO GET *MY* HELP.

ER... YOU'RE MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE *UNMODIFIED* TECHNOLOGY, WHICH WE NEED TO *RECREATE*.

YOU DIDN'T LOSE THE *NOTES* I LEFT BEHIND, DID YOU?

...

I'M NOT GOING TO DIGNIFY *THAT* WITH A RESPONSE EITHER.

EGON...

BDEEP BDEEP

IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL *ANY* BETTER, I THINK RAY LOST IT WHILE I WAS *DEAD*.

WHILE YOU WERE *WHAT* NOW?

HOLD THAT THOUGHT—IT SEEMS THE COMPUTER HAS *REVISED* ITS CALCULATIONS WITH FURTHER DATA FROM THE DIMENSIONAL BREACH ALARM. WE HAVE EVEN *LESS TIME* THAN WE THOUGHT BEFORE THE COLLECTORS FIND THE OTHERS.

C'MON, HOW IS IT YOU CAN EVEN *SET UP* AN ALARM TO TRACK SOMETHING LIKE THAT *ACROSS* DIMENSIONS?

I'M VERY SMART.

BUT NOT SMART ENOUGH TO *REVERSE ENGINEER* THE ORIGINAL PORTAL DESIGN AFTER ALL YOUR ALTERATIONS?

TOUCHÉ.

MY THOUGHT IS TO COMBINE THE PORTAL TECHNOLOGY WITH THAT OF OUR GHOST TRAPS IN ORDER TO SEND THE COLLECTORS *DIRECTLY INTO THE CONTAINMENT UNIT.*

I CAN'T RISK A PKE SURGE ALLOWING *ANYTHING* TO ESCAPE, HOWEVER, AND YOUR INVOLVEMENT IS THE MOST *EFFICIENT* WAY TO ACHIEVE THAT WITHOUT DAYS OF TRIAL AND ERROR.

WELL, THAT'LL AT LEAST BE MORE FUN THAN *PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING* IN DIMENSION X.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS ON HOW YOU'LL MAKE SURE THE COLLECTORS CAN'T *ESCAPE* BEFORE THEY GET TRAPPED?

NOT YET. DO YOU?

YOU KNOW...

...I THINK I JUST MIGHT!

FWASHHH
AHHHHH— WAIT, DID WE MAKE IT? THAT MONSTER'S GONE?
IT WAS NEVER HERE, YOU PESSIMIST. THIS IS A TOTALLY DIFFERENT DIMENSIONAL PLANE.
BUT WE'RE GOING TO NEED A LITTLE BIT LONGER TO RECHARGE THE REMOTE PORTAL ACCESS THIS TIME.
I'D BE MORE CONCERNED, BUT I FEEL OUR MULTIPLE DIMENSIONAL HOPS SHOULD HAVE OBSCURED OUR TRAIL ENOUGH TO ALLOW A LITTLE BIT OF LEEWAY.
WE SHOULD BE SAFE.

SAFE, HUH? IF I HAD HAIR ON THE BACK OF MY NECK, IT'D BE STANDIN' UP RIGHT NOW. SOMETHIN' AIN'T RIGHT HERE—CHECK YOUR METER THING.

BUT I'M TELLING YOU—

CHECK. IT.

OKAY, BUT—

BDEEP EEP

WELL, WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT.

YEAH. GO FIGURE.

YOUR SENSES MUST BE AMAZINGLY WELL-TUNED TO YOUR SURROUNDINGS IF YOU CAN SELF-DETECT CHANGES IN THE PSYCHOKINETIC SPECTRUM IN SUCH A MANNER.

IF THE NEXT WORDS OUTTA YOUR MOUTH ARE ABOUT WANTIN' SOME KINDA BRAIN SAMPLE, I'M GONNA POP YOU ONE.

NO, NO—I WAS THINKING MAYBE JUST SOME NON-INVASIVE SCANS...

GOT 'IM!

SKPOP

NORMALLY I DON'T CONSIDER PROTONIC DISPERSAL A PARTICULARLY *VIABLE* SOLUTION WHEN IT COMES TO DEALING WITH AN INFESTATION OF CLASS FIVES—TENDS TO BE MORE *TROUBLE* THAN ITS WORTH.

BUT CONSIDERING THAT WE'RE NOT ACTUALLY HERE TO *PERMANENTLY* RID THE AREA OF ANY ENTRENCHED ENTITIES, IT MAKES *A LOT* MORE SENSE.

DON'T CARE.

THEY'LL *REFORM* IN A FEW DAYS, AND OUT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF *NOWHERE*, IT'LL BE *JUST FINE!*

SHPOOK

YOU MAY BE WONDER— *LOOK OUT!*

GAH!

AS I WAS SAYING, YOU MAY BE WONDERING *WHY* THE GHOSTS WE'VE ENCOUNTERED HAVE BEEN SO AGGRESSIVE AND WHETHER THAT'S A *UNIVERSAL CONSTANT* OF INTERDIMENSIONAL TRAVEL THAT YOU'D NEED TO BE WORRIED ABOUT IN YOUR *OWN* ADVENTURES—

NOT REALLY. *PTUI.*

—IT'S JUST AN UNFORTUNATE *SIDE-EFFECT* OF *OUR JURY-RIGGED* PORTAL SETUP.

I SAID, I *DON'T CARE*, RAY. I'M *SICK* OF PORTALS, AND OTHER DIMENSIONS, AND *DEALIN'* WITH STUFF I GOT *NO CONTROL* OVER.

I JUST WANNA GET *HOME.*

SQUISH!

THERE. I THINK THAT'S *ALL* OF THEM.

YOU KNOW, YOU REMIND ME A LITTLE OF MY *NEPHEW*. HEART ON HIS SLEEVE, BUT SO *WORRIED* ABOUT SO MUCH HE JUST SOUNDED *ANGRY* ALL THE TIME.

MY SISTER ASKED PETER TO *TALK* TO HIM ONCE, AS A *PSYCHOLOGIST*.

STANTZ

PETE WOUND UP WITH A *BLACK EYE* AND *WHOOOAAAH—*

WOOOSH

RAY!

UNGH—THAT *ISN'T* GOING TO WORK. JUMP UP AND TRY TO *REACH* THE THROWER!

THERE'S GOTTA BE *ANOTHER* WAY!

RAPH, YOU'RE PULLING *MY* LEG, NOT THE *OTHER WAY* AROUND!

AWRIGHT, COME ON OUT AND *SHOW YOURSELF*, CASPER!

I AIN'T IN THE *MOOD* FOR GAMES!

TOO BAD.

WHAT THE—

WHAM

FWASHHH!

DUDE. WHAT'S THAT SMELL?

DUNNO. SMELLS LIKE NEW YORK TO ME.

AND IT LOOKS LIKE THE MAGIC BUTTON HERE NEEDS A LITTLE BREAK.

WELL, WE'LL JUST TAKE A SECOND TO SEND A LITTLE NOTE OFF TO EGON, LET HIM KNOW.

WHOA. THIS THING CAN EVEN SEND MESSAGES INTO OTHER UNIVERSES?

AND IT'S ALMOST AS FAST AS A POST OFFICE. EGON WANTED A WAY TO KEEP IN TOUCH FOR WHEN HE GOT HIS MAD SCIENCE DONE, SO WE KNEW WHEN TO HEAD HOME.

WE WANT PEOPLE TO THINK WE ARE CAPABLE OF PLANNING AHEAD, Y'KNOW? WE WENT TO COLLEGE AND EVERYTHING.

HUH. WELL, LOOKS LIKE THIS IS THE RIGHT PLACE FOR YOU TO BE INCOGNITO. YOU WANT TO DO A LITTLE SIGHTSEEING?

WELL, YEAH, BRO! LET'S DO IT!

HEY, NOT SO FAST. SEEMS TO ME THEY ALL GOT SOMETHING YOU DON'T.

YOU TOTALLY SOUNDED JUST LIKE THE WIZARD OF OZ JUST THEN, DUDE.

AND, HEY WAIT—WHAT DON'T I HAVE?

OH, MAN, THIS IS *INSANE!* LOOK AT ALL THE *MUTANTS!*

WAIT—THEY'RE PROBABLY *NOT* MUTANTS, RIGHT?

PROBABLY NOT.

I WISH MY *BROS* COULD SEE THIS, IT'S—

PLOCK!

WATCH OUT!

OOPS!

AH, NO HARM DONE... WALLET'S *STILL* THERE.

WORD OF ADVICE? *DON'T RUN INTO PEOPLE.*

SORRY...

WHAT'S UP, KID? I HAVEN'T SEEN SOMEONE'S MOOD DROP *THIS FAST* SINCE WE TOLD EGON THEY WERE GONNA STOP MAKING *TWINKIES.*

THAT GUY I BUMPED INTO? HE LOOKS JUST LIKE MY *FATHER.* WE, *UM,* WE HAD A FALLING OUT... *ALL* OF US.

AND I JUST... WE HAVEN'T BEEN ON THE *BEST* OF TERMS LATELY. AND I REALLY *MISS* HAVING HIM THERE FOR *ME.*

I THOUGHT I COULD BE *TOUGHER* ABOUT IT, BUT—

DUDE, I NEED A *HUG.*

KID, I DON'T REALLY–Y'KNOW *WHAT?* NEVER MIND.

LET IT OUT.

A SHORT TALK LATER...

SO. YOUR DAD'S A *RAT.* MAKES SENSE.

WE'RE, LIKE, *REINCARNATED PEOPLE* FROM FEUDAL JAPAN. AND THE GUY WHO *KILLED US* ALL BACK THEN WAS *RESURRECTED* AND WE *FOUGHT* HIM AND THEN WE *WON* AND THEN FATHER *CUT OFF HIS HEAD* AND *TOOK OVER* THE NINJA CLAN WE'D BEEN AT *WAR* WITH AND I THOUGHT THE FIGHTING WOULD BE *OVER*, BUT...

HO! TAKE A BREATH.

SEEING YOU ALL TORE UP TELLS ME *THE* KIND OF DAD HE MUST'VE BEEN, AND THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA AS TO *WHY* YOUR SWITCH JUST GOT FLIPPED. YOU HAD A *PICTURE* IN YOUR HEAD OF HOW THE OLD MAN WAS AND HE STOPPED *RESEMBLING* IT, AM I RIGHT?

'COURSE I AM.

PARENTS ARE *PEOPLE*, KID, AND PEOPLE MAKE *MISTAKES.*

KIDS REACT BAD THE FIRST TIME THEY SEE IT. I'M NOT SAYING YOU'LL AGREE WITH HIM, OR EVEN FORGIVE HIM. BUT EVENTUALLY, YOU'RE GONNA *UNDERSTAND* HIM.

UM, WOW. NO OFFENSE, BUT I WASN'T EXPECTING *YOU* TO HAVE ANYTHING HELPFUL TO SAY.

DID YOU GET IT TO *HELP* PEOPLE?

WELL, YOU KNOW. I *DID* GET A DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY.

NOT REALLY. *MOSTLY* I GOT IT TO IMPRESS WOMEN. OR PULL A *COLD READ.*

BUT EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, I ACCIDENTALLY USE THE TRAINING LIKE I'M *SUPPOSED* TO.

Y'KNOW, I WASN'T EVEN THINKING, BUT I *RECOGNIZE* THIS NEIGHBORHOOD. WE'RE ONLY ABOUT A BLOCK FROM WHERE THE *FIREHOUSE* WOULD BE, IF THIS IS AS MUCH A NEW YORK AS IT *LOOKS* LIKE.

I WONDER IF THERE ARE GHOSTBUSTERS IN *THIS* DIMENSION, TOO?

FREEZE, DEMON!

VENKMAN

HERE! WE'VE *FOUND* THE SUSPECTED EXTRA-NORMAL ENTITY!

IT DOESN'T *LOOK* LIKE A GHOST.

WE'LL MAKE *THAT* DETERMINATION LATER. FOR NOW—*BLAST IT!*

SAY WHAT NOW?

KWASHHH

WHERE IN THE–

UH, WINSTON...

INTRUDERS!

FIRE!

TINK

PING

BRRAP BRRAP BRRAP

LOOK OUT!

WHOA.

YEAH.

DESTROY THEM!

OH, HELL NO.

COVER ME?

OH, HELL YEAH.

KKKYYYT

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW HAPPY I AM TO SEE THESE THINGS WORK SO WELL ON *KILLER ROBOTS.*

I HAVEN'T LIKED THEM SINCE THAT ONE *SCHWARZEN-EGGER* MOVIE.

IT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS DESIGNED FOR *FIGHTING*, ALL RIGHT. IN FACT, LOOK AROUND–

–IT LOOKS LIKE WE WOUND UP ON SOME KINDA *BATTLE WORLD.*

YOU AIN'T *KIDDING*, MAN.

WE NEED TO FIND US SOME *COVER.*

LIKE MY OLD FIRST SERGEANT USED TO *ALWAYS* SAY, WHEN YOU'RE OUTGUNNED, DISCRETION IS THE *BETTER* PART OF NOT GETTING YOUR BACKSIDE SHOT OFF.

YEAH. OKAY.

MAN, WHAT A MESS–

—FIGURES *I'D* END UP ON SOME INSANE *WAR* DIMENSION.

HOW MUCH YOU WANNA BET *VENKMAN'S* SIPPING COCKTAILS ON SOME *TROPICAL ISLAND* WITH A BUNCH OF MULTI-DIMENSIONAL *BOND GIRLS* RIGHT NOW?

THIS IS ALL *MY* FAULT.

FOR *THIS*? C'MON, MAN— HOW CAN YOU *SAY* THAT?

IF ANYTHING, IT'S THE *EGGHEADS* AND THEIR *CRAZY EXPERIMENTS* THAT KEEP GETTING US INTO THESE JAMS.

NOT *THIS* TIME. DUN'S AFTER US BECAUSE MY FATHER HAD HIM *ASSASSINATED*.

YEAH, AND...?

AND *I* WAS HIS *CHUNIN*, WINSTON—IT MEANS HIS SECOND-IN-COMMAND.

I *KNOW* WHAT IT MEANS. RAY IS ADDICTED TO *KUNG FU THEATER*. HAS IT ON ALL THE TIME.

THEN YOU KNOW IT WAS *MY* JOB TO TALK SOME SENSE INTO HIM. TO *STOP* HIM BEFORE THINGS WENT TOO FAR AND GOT OUT OF CONTROL.

OBVIOUSLY, I FAILED.

I SERVED WITH SOME GREAT MARINES BACK IN THE DAY, AND I'M HERE TO TELL YOU THAT I'D MATCH YOU UP TO *ANY ONE* OF THEM *ANY DAY* OF THE WEEK. AND YOU'RE ONLY A *TEENAGER*, FOR GOD'S SAKE, SO THAT'S SAYING *A LOT*.

TRUTH IS, WE'RE HERE BECAUSE YOUR *DAD* MADE A QUESTIONABLE STRATEGIC DECISION. UNFORTUNATELY, *WE* HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT.

AT THE END OF THE DAY, IF YOU TAKE ON *TOO MUCH* OF THE LOAD, YOU ONLY END UP *BROKEN*... AND THEN YOU'RE NO GOOD TO ANYONE. YOU CAN'T TAKE THE *WHOLE WORLD* ON YOUR SHOULDERS, MAN.

I JUST... I JUST WISH IT WAS *EASIER* SOMETIMES.

DON'T WE ALL. BUT RIGHT NOW, THINGS ARE TOUGH, SO WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO BE EVEN *TOUGHER*.

LET'S JUST HOPE THE OTHERS CAN FIX UP THE *NECESSARY MODIFICATIONS* TO THE PORTAL TECHNOLOGY, *STAT*.

WHOA. THAT'S SO *WEIRD*...

"...YOU SOUNDED ***EXACTLY*** LIKE DONNIE WHEN YOU SAID THAT."

OKAY, I THINK WE ***SOLVED*** IT.

IF WE JUST BOOST THE POWER BY A FACTOR OF THREE ON THIS TRAPGATE, IT ***SHOULD*** MAKE SURE THE PORTAL INTO YOUR CONTAINMENT UNIT IS A ONE-WAY—

—AHHRGH!

DONATELLO!

IT'S ***FINE,*** MAN. NO NEED TO MAKE A FUSS.

I'M NOT ***SURE*** ABOUT THAT. YOUR SPEECH PATTERN AND INFLECTIONS ARE RESEMBLING ***WINSTON'S.***

WHEN WE DECIDED TO USE THIS ***EXPERIMENTAL MENTAL COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE*** TO MASK YOUR PRESENCE IN THIS DIMENSION, I SUSPECTED THE POSSIBILITY OF NEURAL CONFUSION.

I JUST THOUGHT WE'D HAVE ***MORE*** TIME.

YOU COULDN'T ***WARN*** A GUY? FEELS LIKE MY SOUL IS IN ***TWO PLACES*** AT ONCE AGAIN...

IF I ADJUST THE SENSITIVITY TO ***COMPENSATE*** FOR—

WAIT, ***"AGAIN"?***

OOPS.

WUHH—?

EGON? WE GOT A ***DELIVERY*** FROM KUNG FU HUSTLE SUPPLY EMPORI—

—***OH!***

THIS WASN'T ***COMPLETELY*** MY FAULT.

DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, JANINE...

...I'M FINE.

ARE YOU SURE? YOU LOOK A LITTLE ***PEAKED***... WELL, FOR A GREEN MAN.

NO, REALLY, I'M FINE.

MAYBE YOU SHOULD SIT DOWN FOR A BIT...

THERE'S NO TIME! THAT ZAP I JUST TOOK FROM THIS THING... IT WAS LIKE MY BRAIN WAS EVERYWHERE AT ONCE! I COULD FEEL THE COLLECTORS LOOKING FOR US, MAN, WE GOTTA BUCKLE DOWN!

YOU'RE SOUNDING LIKE ***WINSTON*** AGAIN. I HAVE CONCERNS.

NO TIME FOR CONCERNS, EGON. WE HAVE ***TOO MUCH*** TO DO. TRAPGATE'LL BE A SNAP—BUT WE'LL STILL NEED TO BE ABLE TO ***FIGHT***. THAT'S WHERE ***THIS STUFF*** COMES IN.

WE'RE GONNA BUILD A ***PROTON-POWERED NINJA ARSENAL,*** AND THOSE DEMONS'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT ***HIT*** 'EM.

art by PABLO TUNICA

TMNT
GHOSTBUSTERS 2 #3

art by DAN SCHOENING
colors by LUIS ANTONIO DELGADO

THE PURGATORY BETWEEN WORLDS.

DARIUS DUN PEERS INTO THE PRISON DIMENSION WHERE HE HAD BEEN HOLDING THE TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES, ONLY TO FIND THEM... GONE.

HOW?!

HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?

HE ISN'T PLEASED.

HOW IS WHAT POSSIBLE, DARIUS?

THE RAT'S FAMILY—THE ACCURSED MUTANT TURTLES—I DECIDED TO PEER INTO THE DIMENSION IN WHICH THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO BE IMPRISONED, ONLY TO FIND NO SIGN OF THEM!

I ASK AGAIN—HOW?!

THINGS LIKE THIS HAPPEN, DARIUS. THE ONLY CERTAINTY IS UNCERTAINTY.

BUT YOU NEED TO CALM DOWN. I TOLD YOU THAT THERE WOULD BE A COST TO SUMMONING THE COLLECTORS, AND THIS AGITATION IS CLEARLY THE START OF IT.

DON'T PATRONIZE ME, BRONSON.

I'M NOT! I'M NOT. INTENSELY NEGATIVE VIBES JUST HAVE MORE CONSEQUENCES HERE THAN THEY DO IN THE PHYSICAL WORLD IS ALL.

TRUST THE COLLECTORS. THEY'RE VERY SENSITIVE TO THEIR PRISON DIMENSION. THEY'LL BE SEARCHING FOR THESE TURTLES YOU LOST—

"—AND THEN THEY'LL *CAPTURE* THEM FOR SURE."

GOOD JOB, BOYS—WE *BAGGED IT* BEFORE IT COULD *HURT* THAT YOUNG TURTLE!

NOW, *QUICK!* SOMEONE *INCAPACITATE* THIS THING FOR TRANSPORT!

PETE! ARE YOU *OKAY*, DUDE?

WELL, NO.

I'VE *GOT* IT, DANNY— ONE ORDER OF *INCAPACITATING GEL*, COMING UP!

WHAT THE—OH, GEEZ, THIS IS HOW BAD *FANFICS* START...

UGH. WHAT A TIME FOR ERNIE TO BE OUT *SICK*... IT'S SO *HEAVY*.

YOU GUYS DON'T UNDERSTAND— HE'S *NOT*, LIKE, AN ENTITY!

HE MIGHT NOT *LOOK* LIKE ONE, BUT HE'S CLEARLY *SOME* KIND OF ALIEN HELLBEAST.

WE'LL *CONSULT* WITH CITY HALL, AND THEN WE'LL *ATOMIZE* HIM AND STORE HIM SAFELY.

NO NEED TO *THANK* US.

OKAY, BOYS, *LET'S GO!*

I COULD TAKE THEM OUT. JUST KNOCK 'EM SILLY AND FREE PETER.

IT'D BE A SNAP.

I MEAN, DUDE, I CAN'T GET AWAY WITHOUT HIM, AND THOSE MONSTERS ARE GONNA COME AFTER ME SOONER THAN LATER... SO IT'S LOGICAL, RIGHT?

BUT THESE GUYS ARE JUST, LIKE, INNOCENT BYSTANDERS.

I'M TRAINED TO BE INVISIBLE, SO MAYBE I SHOULD TRY BEING SNEAKY—PULL OFF A RESCUE WITHOUT HAVING TO HURT ANYONE.

YEAH.

THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO.

AND, HEY, MAYBE PETE CAN EXPLAIN WHY I'M SAYING ALL THIS STUFF OUT LOUD...

WELL, THIS IS *PERFECT.*

PSST. DUDE!

DAH! HOW DID YOU—

SHHH. I'M A *NINJA,* REMEMBER?

IT'S *WHAT* I DO!

NOW LET ME JUST GET YOU *OUT* OF HERE—

MAN, WHAT *IS* THIS STUFF?

DUNNO, KID. SMELLS A LITTLE LIKE *RUBBER CEMENT.* REMINDS ME OF THE TIME I DATED A WOMAN WHO WAS ADDICTED TO *SCRAP-BOOKING—*

HEY!

UH-OH.

IT'S THE KID FROM THE PARK! HE MUST'VE BEEN *COMPROMISED* BY THIS THING AFTER ALL.

WELL, BILL, THERE'S *NOTHING* FOR IT...

—WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE HIM DOWN!

BILL! YOU'RE *WRECKING* THE LAB!

IT'S NOT *ME*, HAROLD, IT'S *HIM!*

HE'S FLIPPING AROUND LIKE A *MONKEY*, NOT A *TURTLE!*

THAT'S IT! I AM *SO TIRED* OF GETTING *SHOT AT!*

TIME TO GET *EXTREME.*

YES! A GOOD HIT—

—BUT YOU DIDN'T *PIERCE* MY SHIELD, NILS!

WAIT—

—THAT'S ME?!

OH, GOOD— YOU'VE REGAINED *LUCIDITY.*

I'D SAY *CONSCIOUSNESS,* BUT, HEY, WHEN ONE FINDS THEMSELVES IN A *FORCED* OUT-OF-BODY EXPERIENCE, AND CONSCIOUSNESS IS THE *ENTIRETY* OF THEIR EXISTENCE, WELL, THINGS GET *RELATIVE* REAL QUICK.

THE *HECK'S* GOIN' ON HERE, RAY?

WELL, IN SHORT... WE WERE SET UPON BY A GROUP OF *GJENGANGER.*

YEN *WHAT?*

VIKING GHOSTS.

WE BUMBLED INTO AN ***AFTERLIFE***, AND THEY HIJACKED OUR ***BODIES*** IN ORDER TO EXPERIENCE THE ***SENSATION*** OF PHYSICAL COMBAT AGAIN.

AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I WAS ABLE TO ***PIECE TOGETHER*** THROUGH OBSERVATION.

BUT NOW THAT I KNOW THAT THE ***ESSENTIAL CORE*** OF YOUR PERSONALITY SURVIVED INTACT, WE CAN GET DOWN TO ***RESOLVING*** THIS...

ATTENTION, OTHERDIMENSIONAL SCANDINAVIAN BEINGS!

?!

THEY SPEAK ***ENGLISH?***

IT'S COMPLICATED. WE'RE NOT ACTUALLY ***SPEAKING***. NO VOCAL CHORDS.

I'LL EXPLAIN LATER.

MY NAME IS ***RAY STANTZ***. MY TERRAPIN-LIKE COMPANION IS ***RAPHAEL***.

WE ADMIT TO ***INTRUDING*** UPON THIS DIMENSION AND ***APOLOGIZE*** IF THE AGGRESSIVE DISPLAY YOU MAY HAVE ***WITNESSED*** SHORTLY AFTER OUR ARRIVAL HAS CAUSED YOU TO ***USURP*** OUR PHYSICAL FORMS IN THE NAME OF DEFENSE AND SELF-PRESERVATION.

HOWEVER, WE WILL HAVE TO ***INSIST*** THAT YOU RETURN TO US WHAT IS ***OURS*** SO THAT WE CAN BE ON OUR WAY.

THANK YOU.

HAHAHAH

—AND USE IT LIKE A BATTERING RAM!

IT WORKED!

YOU CALL THIS WORKIN'? TWO OF US IN *ONE* BODY? HOW DO WE GET *MINE* BACK?

WELL, NOW THAT I HAVE ACCESS TO MY *PROTON PACK*, I FIGURED THAT I'D—THAT I'D...

PAY *ATTENTION*, RAY!

I'M SORRY, I JUST—FOR A SECOND THERE, MY MIND WANDERED TO ONE OF *YOUR* MEMORIES AND... DO YOU *REALLY* FEEL THAT LONELY? EVEN AROUND YOUR *FAMILY?*

KEEP *OUTTA* MY BUSINESS, RAY.

NOW—SINCE THERE'S *NO WAY* I'M GONNA LET YOU *SHOOT* AT MY PRETTY FACE WITH YER FREAKIN' LASER GUN...

...I'M GONNA NEED YOU TO LET ME *DRIVE* FOR A BIT, AND HOPE YOUR JOINTS AIN'T AS *OLD* AS YOU LOOK.

I DO WISH WE HADN'T HAD TO COME ALL THE WAY OUT TO ***RED HOOK*** TO TEST THESE WEAPONS PROTOTYPES—

—BUT THE ENCLOSURE WE BUILT FOR PETER'S FANTASY CAMP IS THE ***ONLY*** SAFE PLACE TO DO SO.

RELAX, EGON. I KNOW WE'RE IN A ***CRUNCH***, BUT IT ONLY TOOK 20 MINUTES TO ***GET*** HERE.

A LOT CAN ***HAPPEN*** IN 20 MINUTES, DONATELLO.

WE GOTTA KEEP OUR HEADS ***CLEAR***. NO TIME FOR STRESS.

YOU'RE TELLING ME. STILL, BETTER ***SAFE*** THAN—

—WAIT. "FANTASY CAMP?"

YOU BUILT THIS FOR A ***FANTASY CAMP?!***

YES. "***GHOSTBUSTERS 101.***"

JUST BE CAREFUL. THE GLASS CAN HANDLE A LOT OF PSYCHOKINETIC ACTIVITY, BUT IT MAY NOT BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND MUCH FROM YOUR ***FULLY POWERED*** PROTON WEAPONS.

FIRE IN THE HOLE.

DANGER

TALK TO ME, EGON. WHAT WAS IT LIKE, FOR *YOU*, *UM*, BEING DEAD?

SCIENTIFICALLY SPEAKING.

ARE YOU SURE YOU WOULDN'T RATHER FOCUS ON THE *MATTER* AT HAND?

MY BROTHERS AND I LIKE TO *TALK* WHEN WE FIGHT. I FIND IT *COMFORTING*, MYSELF.

AND THIS THING IS *TERRIFYING*, SO PLEASE, HUMOR ME.

I'M HAPPY TO PROVIDE YOU WITH *COPIES* OF ALL OF THE TESTS WE TOOK UPON MY RETURN... BEYOND THAT, THERE REALLY *ISN'T* MUCH TO TELL.

THERE *WAS* A FEELING OF PEACE. I WAS ABLE TO *FULLY FOCUS* ON MY THOUGHTS.

YOU, HOWEVER—YOU SAID YOUR SPIRIT WAS IN *TWO PLACES* AT ONCE? I'M MORE INTERESTED IN *THAT*.

I DON'T BELIEVE THAT— *WHOOP!*

YEAH. I WAS... *MORTALLY WOUNDED*. MY CONSCIOUSNESS WAS PLACED IN A *ROBOT SHELL* FOR A WHILE. I WAS THERE, AND I WASN'T.

IT'S KINDA LIKE A *DREAM*. SOMETIMES IT'S *CLEAR*...

...SOMETIMES IT'S *FUZZY*.

HEY, LOOK AT THAT! IT *WORKED!*

WHACK

I HIT HIM!

WHAK

KTANK

OOPS. SORRY.

NO SENSE IN ***DRAGGING*** THIS OUT. I'M ***SATISFIED*** WITH THE WEAPON'S PERFORMANCE—IT MANAGED TO ***TAG*** SOMETHING THAT BECOMES INTANGIBLE AT WILL. TIME TO TEST OUR ***OTHER*** PROTOTYPE.

BUT DON'T THINK I'M LETTING YOU OFF THE HOOK ABOUT THE ***DEATH*** THING. I KNOW THERE'S ***MORE*** TO IT, AND I WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT.

KLIK

VREWWWWWW

C'MON...

WE MAY HAVE *MISCALCULATED* ON THE POWER WE NEEDED!

WE CAN *STILL* FIX IT. THAT ENTITY CAN'T ESCAPE FROM THE *IONIZED GLASS*. JUST TURN OFF THE GATE BEFORE *ANYTHING* CAN COME THROUGH!

WAY *AHEAD* OF YOU. ARE YOU GOING TO COME *TRAP* THIS THING NOW, OR—

OOPS. I FORGOT.

FOR SAFETY'S SAKE, THE DOOR TO THE ENCLOSURE IS *LOCKED* TO KEEP ANY ACTIVE GHOSTS *CONTAINED*.

I CAN GET INSIDE, BUT IT WILL TAKE ME A MOMENT TO PROPERLY *OVERRIDE* THE LOCKING MECHNISM. CAN YOU *STALL?*

HOW COULD YOU *FORGET* THAT, MAN?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!

YOU'RE SOUNDING LIKE ***WINSTON*** AGAIN. DON'T LET YOURSELF ***DRIFT***. FOCUS.

TELL ME AGAIN ABOUT HOW YOU FELT IN ***TWO*** BODIES.

WITH ***METALHEAD***— THE ROBOT BODY MY BRAIN WAS CONSCIOUS IN—IT WAS ***ME***, BUT IT ***WASN'T*** ME.

MY OWN BODY WAS ***HOLLOW***. BUT ***PART*** OF ME FELT WARM.

AND I REMEMBER BEING IN A ***GARDEN***.

A GARDEN?

I DON'T KNOW.

IT ALL FELT LIKE ONE OF THOSE ***DREAMS*** WHERE YOU WAKE UP AND EVERYTHING IS ***NORMAL*** AND YOU DO WHAT YOU DO AND THEN ***WAKE UP*** TO FIND OUT YOUR PERFECTLY NORMAL DAY WAS A DREAM.

IT'S WEIRD IN A WAY I CAN'T TALK ABOUT WITH THE OTHERS, EVEN THOUGH ***WE KNOW*** FROM WEIRD.

YOU KNOW?

GOT IT!

AND BY THAT, I MEAN THAT I GOT THE ***DOOR UNLOCKED*** AND ALSO ***UNDERSTAND*** WHAT YOU MEAN...

...ABOUT ***WEIRDNESS***.

WOOO

SOUNDS LIKE THE FIGHTING HAS *DIED DOWN* A LITTLE.

AND THE PORTAL REMOTE IS *RECHARGED*. YOU READY TO GET OUT OF HERE?

YEAH. I AM.

THEN LET'S—

THWACK

SHLUCK

—THE HELL?!

HEY, GIVE THAT *BACK!*

MAN, WHY COULDN'T IT *JUST* BE GHOSTS? OR ROBOTS? I DON'T WANNA—

—SHOOT. HE'S *RUNNING!*

WELL, WELL, WELL. THIS SURE LOOKS IMPORTANT, *DON'T* IT!

AND IMPORTANT MEANS SOMEONE MIGHT WANT TO *BUY IT* AND WORK IT ON INTO THEIR BATTLE BOTS.

THIS MUST BE MY *LUCKY* DAY!

YOU WANT THIS BACK, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO *CATCH ME!*

MAN, I AM GETTING *TOO OLD* FOR THIS RUNNING BUSINESS.

MAYBE YOU SHOULD RECONSIDER *SHOOTING* HIM.

MMMM... BETTER NOT. CAN'T RISK HIM *DROPPIN'* THAT PIECE, MAN. WE'D BE *STUCK* HERE.

HANG ON, NOW— *LOOK*.

ALL RIGHT, THEN. JUST *HAND OVER* WHAT YOU STOLE, AND WE ALL *WALK* AWAY.

WELL, *LOOK* AT THAT! YOU *CAUGHT* ME!

REALLY *IS* MY LUCKY DAY.

DO YOU FIND IT WEIRD THAT EVERYTHING *ALWAYS* SPEAKS ENGLISH?

NAW, I JUST *ROLL* WITH IT AT THIS POINT. I DON'T NEED THE *EXTRA* HEADACHE.

WHAT'S THIS *ABOUT?*

NOW I CAN INTRODUCE YOU TO MY *BROTHERS* AND WE CAN TAKE *ALL* YOU GOT TO TAKE, NOT JUST THIS FANCY LITTLE *WRIST* THING!

LET'S HAVE THAT *BACKPACK*, HUMAN.

AND ANY *OTHER* TECH YOU GOT.

WE'LL TAKE THOSE FANCY *SWORDS*, TOO, SHELLBACK.

YOU CAN *TRY*.

FINE! WE *LOVE* DOING IT THE HARD WAY!

GET 'EM, GUYS!

HYAH— HUH?

HEY! THAT WAS BRAND NEW!

SLASH

WINSTON, I'LL BE DONE WITH *THESE* TWO IN A SECOND IF YOU NEED ANY HELP...

THWOK

TOO BAD.

THWAK

NO THANKS, MAN. DID SOME *BOXING* AS A KID—THESE FROGS GOT *NOTHING*.

THERE'S NO *VISIBLE TRAINING* IN THEIR FIGHT STANCES. MY GUESS IS THEY'RE JUST POOR *STREET FIGHTERS* WHO RELY ON INTIMIDATION AND SUPERIOR NUMBERS.

FWAP

SO YOU'RE SAYING YOU *DIDN'T* NEED A HAND? AND HERE I JUST PICKED ONE UP.

YOU GOT JOKES *TOO* NOW, HUH?

AND YOU WERE TALKING LIKE *DONNIE* AGAIN.

WAS I? MAN.

I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY—I THOUGHT YOU WERE *MARKS!*

LOOK, *HERE'S* YOUR THING. I'LL *TRADE* YOU BACK FOR MY BROTHER'S ARM?

GIMME *THAT*, MAN.

JUST ANOTHER SECOND AND WE ARE *OUT* OF HERE.

UM, WINSTON...

...I THINK IT MIGHT BE *TOO LATE.*

art by TADO GALUSHA

TMNT
GHOSTBUSTERS 2 #4

art by DAN SCHOENING
colors by LUIS ANTONIO DELGADO

THESE ARE ***THE COLLECTORS.*** DIMENSION HOPPING DEMONS WHO CAPTURE ANY LIVING-BEING THEY'RE SUMMONED TO COLLECT.

THEY'VE ***FOUND*** US!

THEY HAVE BEEN SENT AFTER THE NINJA TURTLES BY A FALLEN FOE—***DARIUS DUN***—AND ONLY A COMPLICATED PLAN BY THE GHOSTBUSTERS HAS MANAGED TO KEEP THE COLLECTORS AWAY FROM THEIR PREY.

UNTIL NOW.

TAKE MY ***THROWER***—

—ONLY THING LEFT TO DO IS GIVE THEM A HELL OF A ***FIGHT!***

SHZAARK

UM... THEY *AREN'T* BLOWING UP!

I WASN'T SURE THEY *WOULD*, MAN. POWER'S *MAXED*...

...BUT WE'RE STILL *SPLITTING THE STREAM* AND THESE GUYS ARE *TOO MUCH* FOR *JUST ONE* PROTON PACK.

MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST BITE THE BULLET AND GO *BACK* TO THAT CRAZY PARALLEL DIMENSION OF THEIRS, UNTIL WE CAN ESCAPE FROM—

NO!

YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE AGAIN. NO ONE WILL ESCAPE US AGAIN.

THIS TIME, WE INTEND TO DESTROY—

WHAT...?!

NO! NOT WHEN WE WERE SO CLOSE—!

WHAT... HAPPENED?

YOU KNOW, I HAVE A ***WHOLE SPEECH*** I COULD GIVE YOU RIGHT NOW, MAN. IT'S A ***GOOD*** ONE. REAL PHILOSOPHICAL. HAS TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY, LOST LOVES ***AND*** WISDOM.

IT'D MAKE ME SOUND REAL WISE, LIKE I KNEW ***EXACTLY*** WHAT JUST WENT DOWN.

BUT THE FACT IS, I THINK WE JUST GOT ***LUCKY.***

NOW LET'S MAKE AN ***EXIT*** BEFORE THEY GET A CHANCE TO ***COME BACK,*** HUH?

FWASH

THE PURGATORY BETWEEN DIMENSIONS.

KA-BOOM

DARIUS... WHAT IS THIS? YOU DIDN'T—

WHAT I DID WAS CALL THE COLLECTORS BACK TO EXPLAIN WHY THEY FAILED ME!

THEY NEED TO EXPLAIN!

YOU!

YOU SUMMONED US AGAIN AND COST US OUR QUARRY!

COLLECTORS, MY FRIEND HAS PAID THE COST FOR SUMMONING YOU. CLEARLY, AS ONE WOULD HAVE TO BE INSANE TO SUMMON YOU AGAIN. HE MEANT NO OFFENSE—

DON'T PRESUME TO SPEAK FOR ME!

DARIUS, I'M TRYING TO SAVE YOU!

DON'T BE ABSURD—I'M ALREADY A GHOST.

AS FOR YOU! WHEN I HIRE SOMEONE, I EXPECT RESULTS!

WE CAPTURED THE QUARRY.

AND THEN THEY ESCAPED!

WE WERE DEALING WITH THAT—UNTIL YOU SUMMONED US HERE.

OUR PRICE IS A PIECE OF THE SOUL. THE LOSS CAUSES MADNESS. CLEARLY, YOU ARE MAD.

MAD ENOUGH TO SUMMON US AGAIN.

WHICH MEANS YOU MUST PAY AGAIN.

BUT THIS TIME...

...THE COST SHALL BE THE ENTIRETY OF YOUR BEING!

HIS ESSENCE... IT'S POISON! IT'S—

YAAARRRGH!

IT HURTS!

WHAT... WHAT'S HAPPENING?

HHNNH...

IT... IT...

IT'S DONE.

I'M... DUN.

WE'RE ALL DARIUS DUN.

DUN IS THE COLLECTORS.

THE POWER...

...IT'S INCREDIBLE.

OH, THIS IS BAD. I WAS JUST TRYING TO BE A FRIEND, I DIDN'T MEAN FOR THIS TO HAPPEN...

NONSENSE! THIS IS EXTRAORDINARY, BRONSON! WE ARE REBORN! OUR MIND IS COMPLETELY RESTORED!

WE KNOW EVERYTHING THE COLLECTORS KNEW.

AND WE ARE NO LONGER BOUND TO THE OLD RULES! WE CAN FEEL IT!

WE ARE FREE TO GO AFTER WHOMEVER WE PLEASE!

THE MUTANT RAT SHALL RECEIVE HIS COMEUPPANCE, BRONSON. DIRECTLY. BUT FIRST...

...FIRST WE'LL BRING HIM THE HEADS OF HIS CHILDREN.

HAHA!

YOU DUDES HAVE SEEN ME *FLIPPING* AROUND. I'M A *TRAINED* NINJA. I COULD PUT YOU *ALL* DOWN WITHOUT BREAKING A SWEAT.

YOU *READY* FOR THIS?

WELL, OKAY. I ADMIT IT—I *WASN'T* READY FOR THAT.

PERHAPS THE ENTITY'S HOLD ON THE YOUNG TURTLE IS *WANING*. DANNY, GO *TALK* TO THEM.

-SIGH-

WHY IS IT *ALWAYS* ME?

WHY AM I FEELING *DEJA VU*...

MY NAME IS *DR. DAN WELKER.*

AS A DULY APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CITY, COUNTY, AND STATE OF *ZOO AMSTERDAM*, I DEMAND ANY ENTITY CURRENTLY IN POSSESSION OF THIS INNOCENT YOUTH *RELEASE* ITS HOLD AND PROCEED FORTHWITH TO A STATE OF *VISIBILITY* FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS.

OH GOD, IT'S *RAY.*

I'M NOT, LIKE, A *GHOST*, BRO. AND *NEITHER* IS MY FRIEND.

WE'RE *VISITORS* FROM ANOTHER WORLD. COOL, RIGHT?

I'M *MIKE*, BY THE WAY. THAT'S *PETER.*

HEY.

DON'T *TRUST* HIM, DAN! ALIENS *DON'T* EXIST!

NOT LIKE *THAT*. WE'RE NOT *ALIEN*-ALIENS. WE COME FROM *ANOTHER DIMENSION*.

WELL, LIKE, *TWO* OTHER DIMENSIONS?

BUT WE'RE *NOT* GHOSTS, OR POSSESSED—

THAT'S WHAT A *GHOST* WOULD SAY.

DUDE, *WE'RE RUNNING*. WE REALLY ARE. FROM SOMETHING BAD.

I CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING THAT YOU GUYS TAKE YOUR JOB SERIOUSLY, BUT I CAN ALSO TELL YOU'RE ALL *GOOD PEOPLE*.

YOU RESTRAINED MY FRIEND INSTEAD OF TRYING TO *NUKE* HIM ON THE SPOT.

YEAH, IT WAS *MORE* LIKE I WAS SAVED BY RED TAPE.

TELL YOU WHAT *ELSE* I NOTICED, DOC...

...NONE OF YOU DUDES HAVE YOUR FINGERS ON THE TRIGGER TO YOUR WEAPONS RIGHT NOW.

WELL, THEY *ARE* HAIR TRIGGERS, YOUNGSTER. WE WOULDN'T WANT ANY *ACCIDENTS*.

DR. WELKER, IF ONE OF THE OTHER, *UH, GHOSTBUSTURTLES* WOULD JUST LOOK AT WHAT MY FRIEND HAS ON HIS BACK, MAYBE WE CAN STILL *SORT* THIS OUT?

HAROLD?

HOLY— DAN, YOU NEED TO *SEE* THIS.

WHAT IS IT?

JUST COME AND LOOK!

-SIGH-

BILL, YOU COVER THE BOY WHILE I—SWEET CHRISTMAS, HAROLD... *THAT'S A PROTON PACK!*

LESS ADVANCED THAN OURS, MAYBE, BUT *UNMISTAKABLE*.

"LESS ADVANCED?"

STILL IMPRESSIVE FOR A *HAIRLESS APE*.

OKAY, KID, SOMETHING IN MY *GUT* TELLS ME YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH—

—BUT WE'RE *STILL* GONNA SCAN YOU BOTH UP THE WAZOO FIRST, JUST TO BE *SURE*.

I WILL *NEVER* BE CLEAN.

LOOK, WE MADE A *MISTAKE*. BUT YOU LOOK LIKE A DEMON DOING AN *IMPRESSION* OF A REAL PERSON.

IT'S LIKE YOU'VE MET MY *EXES*.

I'M SORRY ABOUT THE CONFUSION, BUT WE TAKE EXTRA-NORMAL THREATS *SERIOUSLY*. EVER SINCE A *MARSHMALLOW BUNNY* DESTROYED FIFTH AVENUE, WELL...

...

IT'S *OKAY*, DUDE. BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY.

YOU AND I HAVE VERY *DIFFERENT* IDEAS ABOUT WHAT IS AND ISN'T OKAY.

THEY SAID THE SAMPLES WERE *NECESSARY*.

I'LL *BET* THEY DID.

LOOK, ALL KIDDING ASIDE, YOU DID *GOOD*.

YOU *READ* THOSE GUYS AND TALKED US OUT OF THERE WITHOUT HAVING TO *CRACK* ANYONE IN THE JAW. YOU EVER THINK ABOUT A *PSYCHOLOGY DEGREE?*

I'M A *MUTANT*, DUDE. HOW AM *I* GONNA DO CLASSES?

TEK-TEK

EH, I'VE *MET* SOME OF WINSTON'S NIGHT SCHOOL CLASSMATES.

I DOUBT *YOU'D* STAND OUT.

I'M GLAD THEY'RE *GONE*. THAT THING GAVE ME THE *CREEPS*.

GNAAAR!

WOO! THIS IS *INCREDIBLE!*

INCREDIBLY *HARD*, Y'MEAN. YOU EVER EAT ANYTHING THAT *AIN'T* JUNK FOOD, RAY?

SAYS THE *PIZZA* AFICIONADO.

AT LEAST I *STAY* IN SHAPE.

YOU'RE STILL GONNA BE STUCK WITH A *FAT* BUTT WHEN I GET BACK TO MY OWN BODY.

HAH!

OOF!

THESE GUYS GOT NO SENSE OF *MISDIRECTION*. I'LL BE HOME IN *NO TIME*. RIGHT?

THWACK

RAH!

WELL, GREAT. MY BODY'S *TOO TOUGH.* I'M GONNA BE *STUCK* WITH YOU FOREVER.

YOU'RE SO *NEGATIVE,* RAPH. YOU CAN'T—WAIT! *THAT'S IT!* I DON'T KNOW WHY I DIDN'T THINK OF IT BEFORE, I... *UM...*

...RAPH, I *CAN'T MOVE* MY OWN ARM RIGHT NOW.

THERE'S A LITTLE *SPRITZER,* CLIPPED TO MY BELT, RIGHT HAND SIDE.

WE NEED IT—JUST DON'T SPRAY *ANYTHING* YET!

WE NEED TO GET *BEHIND* YOUR BODY AND SPRAY BOTH *IT* AND *ME* AT THE EXACT SAME TIME. CAN YOU *DO* THAT?

WELL, YEAH. WHAT *IS* THIS STUFF?

HO! DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN WE *FIRST* MET?

WHEN THE SPECTRAL ENTITY FROM YOUR OWN DIMENSIONAL PLANE FORCIBLY *POSSESSED* WINSTON?

THIS CAN HOLDS THE *SAME* POSITIVELY CHARGED MOOD SLIME WE USED TO RESOLVE *THAT* SITUATION. IT SHOULD FORCIBLY EVICT *ANY NEGATIVE ENERGY* AND GET YOU BACK WHERE YOU BELONG.

Y'KNOW, IT'S KINDA *CREEPY* THAT SO YOU'RE EXCITED, RAY.

REMEMBER, WE *BOTH* NEED TO BE SPRITZED AT THE SAME TIME TO BE SURE THIS WILL WORK!

YEAH, I *GOT* YA...

HEH. OR *MAYBE* I SHOULD BE SAYING...

...I GOT *ME.*

squirzzz

.com

DID IT— HEY, IT *WORKED!* I'M *ME* AGAIN! I—

HANG ON— YOU JUST SAID THAT STUFF BUMPS OFF *NEGATIVE* ENERGY. HOW COME IT BLASTED *ME?*

WE CAN TALK ABOUT *THAT* LATER.

NO!

I DON'T THINK THEY PLAN ON LETTIN' US *LEAVE*, RAY.

WELL, SINCE WE'RE FREE TO *RUN* AND THE REMOTE PORTAL IS *CHARGED*—

KLIK

—WHAT THEY PLAN IS *BESIDE* THE POINT IF WE MOVE FAST ENOUGH!

FWASH

DID THEY *FOLLOW* US?

NO. *WHEW.*

I THINK WE'RE *CLEAR.*

GOOD. 'CAUSE I GOT A *BONE* TO PICK WITH YOU, RAY. YOU SAID THAT PINK GOOP WORKED AGAINST *NEGATIVE STUFF*—HOW'D IT KNOCK ME BACK INTO MY *OWN* BODY?

GEE, *THANKS*, RAY.

WELL, YOU'RE *VERY NEGATIVE.*

I MEANT BY *COMPARISON* TO ME. I GOT A LOOK AT *WHO* YOU ARE WHILE OUR SPIRITS WERE JOINED. YOU'RE A REAL HEART-ON-YOUR-SLEEVE GUY, BUT YOU'RE SO *ANGRY*...

...SO I ROLLED THE DICE THAT THE ANGER WOULD BE *NEGATIVE ENOUGH* TO INTERACT WITH THE PROPERTIES OF THE MOOD SLIME AND AFFECT *YOU* AS IT WOULD *ANY* UNWANTED ENTITY POSSESSING MY BODY.

BUT I WON'T BE ROLLING *ANYTHING ELSE* FOR A WHILE. AM SO SORE.

TRY SOME *YOGA.*

AS FOR THAT *ANGER*... I GREW UP *ALONE*, Y'KNOW? I STILL GOT A LOT OF *ISSUES* ABOUT THAT, BUT, *UH*, I FEEL A LITTLE, I DUNNO, *LIGHTER* SINCE I GOT BACK TO MY OWN BODY.

IF THAT'S A PIECE OF *YOU*, I SHOULD MAYBE SAY THA—

—ACKKK!

FWASH

RAPH?

GET %$#@ *OFF* ME!

SO MUCH FOR THAT *LIGHTER* MOOD.

OKAY. THAT'S IT.

WITH THAT BIT OF SOLDER, WE'VE ***COMPLETED*** THE POWER BOOST TO THE TRAP-GATE.

I JUST HOPE A ***FIVE-FOLD INCREASE*** IS ENOUGH.

IT SHOULD BE, BUT IT WILL ***SHORTEN*** THE WINDOW OF USE.

IF EVEN ***ONE*** OF THE COLLECTORS IS LEFT FREE, THE OTHERS WILL BE ABLE TO ***ESCAPE*** THE CONTAINMENT UNIT.

DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT ***THAT***, EGON—WITH THESE PROTON WEAPONS, MY BROTHERS AND I WILL MAKE ***SURE*** THOSE THINGS GET TRAPPED.

NOT TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT, BUT SINCE WE'RE ABOUT TO JUMP INTO A DANGEROUS FIGHT WITH POWERFUL OTHERDIMENSIONAL MONSTERS, I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT ***YOUR*** EXPERIENCES WITH...

...

...WELL, ***I*** MEAN, WHEN I "DIED" MY MIND WAS TRANSFERRED TO A ROBOT BODY. IT WAS KINDA LIKE I WAS STILL ***HERE***.

BUT WHAT WAS IT LIKE FOR ***YOU?***

I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED IF A ***ROBOT*** HAD BEEN INVOLVED.

C'MON, EGON...

I CAN *ACCEPT* DYING AT THE HANDS OF AN ENTITY—THAT'S AN OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD.

BUT IF I WERE TO BE RESCUED, I WOULD HAVE *PREFERRED* FOR IT TO HAVE BEEN THROUGH SCIENCE.

YOU'RE UPSET BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE BY *TECHNOLOGY?*

SAYING IT OUT LOUD... I SUPPOSE THAT'S *RIGHT*. BUT IT HAS, AT LEAST, GIVEN ME A WEALTH OF *TESTS* TO RUN ON MYSELF.

WE NEED TO MOVE. THE EQUIPMENT IS AS DONE AS IT WILL *EVER* BE, AND WE DON'T WANT TO PUSH OUR LUCK.

LET'S *CONTACT* THE OTHERS.

THIS IS WEIRD. THE *TRACKERS* YOU HAVE IN THEIR REMOTE PORTAL ACCESS BANDS—

I WILL *NEVER* GET TIRED OF HOW COOL THAT IS.

—IT SAYS THEY'RE *ALL CURRENTLY* AT THE SAME FREQUENCY? BUT *THAT* MEANS...

THEY'RE ALL IN THE SAME PLACE! WHICH MEANS THEY COULD HAVE BEEN *CAPTURED!*

WE NEED TO GET TO THE PORTAL... *NOW!*

SPENGLER

FWASHH

HEEyAAHHH—

—HUH?

DONNIE! DUDE!

YOU'RE *HERE*, TOO!

I'M SO GLAD YOU GUYS ARE *ALL RIGHT!*

WHEN WE SAW YOU WERE ALL BASICALLY IN THE SAME PLACE, WE THOUGHT THE *WORST!*

I'M STILL WONDERING *WHAT* BROUGHT US ALL TO THE SAME DIMENSION. IT HAS TO BE SOME KIND OF EQUIPMENT HICCUP, BECAUSE THE ODDS *AGAINST* A COINCIDENCE LIKE THIS ARE—

IT WAS *NO* COINCIDENCE...

STANTZ

...I CALLED MY SONS TO ME.

MOM?

art by MARK TORRES

TMNT
GHOSTBUSTERS 2 #5

art by DAN SCHOENING
colors by LUIS ANTONIO DELGADO

OH, MY *PRECIOUS*, PRECIOUS CHILDREN...

...IT HAS BEEN *FAR* TOO LONG.

THAT'S THEIR *MOTHER?*

YEAH, MAN. *TANG SHEN.*

SHE WAS KILLED HUNDREDS OF YEARS BACK BY AN *ENEMY* OF THEIR OLD MAN'S.

DUDE CALLED *SHREDDER.*

AND YOU *KNOW* THIS BECAUSE...?

THERE'S BEEN A LITTLE *BLEED-THROUGH* FROM THIS STUPID *HARDWARE* YOU AND EGON COOKED UP. AND IT BETTER NOT GIVE ME ANY *BRAIN DISEASE*, MAN.

BLEED-THROUGH? THAT IS SO *NEAT!*

BUT NOT A *WORD* ABOUT THE POTENTIAL ENCEPHALOPATHY, *HUH*, RAY?

PETER. HE'LL BE *FINE*. I'M... ALMOST *TOTALLY* SURE. RIGHT NOW, I'M MORE INTERESTED IN *THEIR MOTHER.*

IF HER SPIRIT COULD *HIJACK* THE MECHANICS OF A RANDOMIZED TRANS-DIMENSIONAL PORTAL IN ORDER TO *CALL* US ALL HERE, SHE MUST BE AN ENTITY OF *EXTREME POWER*. I GOTTA GET READINGS ON *EVERYTHING.*

I WONDER IF SHE'D LET ME TAKE A *CLIPPING* FROM THE GARDEN TO STUDY ITS COMPOSITION?

HEY!

C'MON, MAN. THAT'S *DISRESPECTFUL.*

YEAH, RAY. WE EXPECT THAT KINDA BLUNT DATA CHASING FROM *EGON*, BUT I ALWAYS THOUGHT *YOU* HAD A LITTLE MORE CLASS.

NO ONE *ASKED* YOU, VENKMAN.

THAT'S THE BEAUTY OF A CONVENIENT SERVICE, RAY— NO ONE *HAD* TO.

IT'S SO *GOOD* TO SEE YOU AGAIN, MOTHER. I DIDN'T THINK... I MEAN—

PLEASE, MY SONS, RISE. SUCH FORMALITY IS *NOT* NEEDED HERE.

MOM... YOU'RE, LIKE, TOTALLY AN *ANGEL*.

YEAH. ARE WE... ARE WE IN *HEAVEN* OR SOMETHIN'?

IN THIS MOMENT, MY SON, I THINK THAT WE *MUST* BE.

I... WHEN I SAW YOU BEFORE, IN THIS *GARDEN*, I THOUGHT IT WAS A *DREAM*, MOTHER.

BUT NOW, WITH EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED, WITH *EVERYONE* HERE, I...

...I KNOW I WAS *WRONG*.

YEAH. ME, TOO.

YOU WERE NOT *SO* WRONG, MY SONS. LIFE, AFTER ALL, *IS* AN ILLUSION... A DREAM.

SHOULD THIS BEAUTIFUL GARDEN BE *ANY* DIFFERENT?

I HAVE MISSED YOU *ALL* SO MUCH, BUT I *HAVE* BEEN WATCHING.

AND I COULD *NOT* LET THE OPPORTUNITY PASS TO *VISIT* WITH YOU WHILE YOU ARE IN *THIS* REALM.

MY *LITTLEST* OF ALL, WHOSE IMMENSE HEART BEATS WITH SUCH *BOUNDLESS* LOVE.

YOUR JOYOUS LIGHT IS A *TREASURE* TO BE CHERISHED BY *ALL* WHO KNOW YOU, CHILD.

MY *CLEVER* BOY, WHOSE REMARKABLE INTELLECT IS MATCHED *ONLY* BY HIS ASTOUNDING BRAVERY.

THE ANSWERS YOU SEEK ARE *CLOSER* THAN YOU REALIZE, MY SON— IT IS MERELY THE PROPER QUESTIONS THAT *ELUDE* YOU FOR NOW.

MY *STRONG* FIGHTER, WHO CONCEALS A DELICATE SOUL *BENEATH* SUCH A STEELY EXTERIOR.

I *PROMISE* YOU, MY BELOVED CHILD—YOU WERE *NEVER* TRULY ALONE... NOR SHALL YOU *EVER* BE.

—AND MY *ELDEST*... HONORABLE WARRIOR, LOYAL BROTHER, *AND* CHERISHED SON.

NEVER *FORGET*, YOUNG MASTER—HE WILL BE VICTORIOUS WHO KNOWS *WHEN* TO FIGHT AND WHEN *NOT* TO.

AND YOU. YOU HAVE *ALL* DONE MUCH FOR MY SONS.

YOU HAVE *TOUCHED* THEIR VERY SOULS, AND—

I THINK YOUR SPECTRAL SENSES MAY BE *MISINTERPRETING* A CONNECTION FORMED BY WAY OF THIS TECHNOLOGY, MA'AM, WHICH IS REALLY JUST OUR WAY OF *MASKING* DONATELLO'S MENTAL ENGRAMS WITH A MINIMUM OF—

—UM...

HAH! SHE SHUT HIM UP WITH A *LOOK!*

IF YOU EVER WANT A JOB DOING THAT *FULL TIME*, LADY, YOU *CALL* ME.

STANTZ

YOUR SCIENCE IS *NOT* WHAT I MEANT.

NOR DO I MEAN THE *BATTLE* IN WHICH YOU SHARED *CONTROL* OF YOUR BODY WITH MY SON'S.

YOU *SAW* THAT?

IT IS AS I SAID— I AM *ALWAYS* WATCHING OVER MY CHILDREN.

STANTZ

YOU HAVE ALL BEEN *LOYAL FRIENDS* AND WORTHY EXAMPLES OF *CHARACTER* TO MY CHILDREN WHEN THEY NEEDED IT THE MOST.

I THANK YOU.

HEY, YOU'RE WELCOME, LADY.

AND MAY I SAY, THIS WHOLE *MIKADO* THING YOU'VE GOT GOING ON REALLY WORKS FOR—

AHEM.

GUESS SHE DIDN'T LIKE *YOUR* TONE.

CAN IT, RAY.

YOUR FRIENDS' TRICKERY WILL NOT *HIDE* YOU FOR VERY MUCH LONGER, MY SONS.

YOUR ENEMY IS *CLOSING* IN FAST.

I WISH I COULD *PROTECT* YOU... I WISH I COULD DO *ANYTHING*.

ALAS, THIS TIME I CAN ONLY OFFER YOU MY *LOVE*.

WE'LL TAKE IT!

OH, MY SWEET BABY BOY.

I MUST *DEPART* NOW, MY SONS.

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN, KNOW THAT YOU HAVE ALL MADE ME *VERY PROUD*.

PLEASE, GIVE YOUR *FATHER* MY LOVE AS WELL...

...AND NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF *HIS* LOVE FOR YOU.

UM... YEAH... OKAY, GANG, LET'S GET *OUT* OF HERE. IF THOSE THINGS ARE *COMING*, I'D LIKE TO DEAL WITH THEM ON OUR *OWN* TURF.

'SIDES, IT LOOKS LIKE MOMMA'S *LANDSCAPING* IS STARTING TO GET ALL MISTY.

AND SO IS RAY. HE *HATES* THESE TEARFUL GOODBYES.

ALL RIGHT, EVERYBODY— LAST STOP, *LOWER MANHATTAN.*

DON'T MIND THE *SMELL.*

BYE, MOM.

FWASH

OH, LOOK, HE'S FINALLY *BACK!*

IS EVERYTHING *OKAY?*

JANINE! YEAH—I'M OKAY.

DID THEY *TELL* YOU? WE TOTALLY GOT TO SEE OUR *MOM!*

OH, AND I WANT TO HEAR *ALL* ABOUT IT.

I'M AFRAID THAT'LL HAVE TO *WAIT*, JANINE. WE STILL HAVE A *PROBLEM* TO TAKE CARE OF.

BUT AT LEAST, NOW...

...WE'RE *DONE RUNNING.*

WHOA... COOL!

NOW, LET ME TELL YOU WHAT THE *PLAN* IS...

CENTRAL PARK, A SHORT TIME LATER...

RRRRRRRRRRRRRRR

KRAKKACHOW

WE'RE FREE!

AND BACK IN NEW YORK!

BUT NOT OUR NEW YORK. STILL, THOSE DAMNED TURTLES ARE HERE.

WE CAN SENSE THEM...

EH?

CLAP CLAP CLAP

GOOD *DEDUCTION*, BOYS. ON THE MONEY.

SAY, Y'KNOW, YOU FOUR LOOK *DIFFERENT*. DID YOU DO SOMETHING WITH YOUR *HAIR*?

WE KNOW YOU. THE COLLECTORS KNEW YOU... PETER VENKMAN.

Y'KNOW, THEY *SAY* FAME IS A BURDEN, BUT I *NEVER* HAVE TO *INTRODUCE MYSELF*.

SO, HEY—I JUST WANTED TO *POP* ON BY AND GIVE YOU ALL THE CHANCE TO *LEAVE* ON YOUR OWN.

BY THE WAY, IS IT *WEIRD* THAT WE KNEW YOU WERE GONNA SHOW UP IN CENTRAL PARK? *I* THINK IT'S WEIRD. BUT *EGON* GOT OUT HIS CALCULATOR AND SAID *BLAH BLAH BLAH* MATH, ODDS, MANIFESTATION...

ANYWAY, HE SAID YOU'D BE *HERE* AND *WE* OUGHTA LET YOU KNOW YOU CAN *STILL* SURRENDER. THE *ALTERNATIVE* IS YOU GET TAKEN OUT...

CLICK

VRRREWWWW

SO, Y'KNOW, *FAIR WARNING.*

BWA-HA-HAH-HA-HAAA!

WE'D FORGOTTEN YOU WERE FUNNY!

WE ARE DARIUS DUN, AND OUR UNEXPECTED BONDING WITH THE COLLECTORS SEEMS TO COME WITH CONDITIONS.

WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE TURTLES FIRST, DR. VENKMAN, BUT THEN WE'LL BE FREE TO DO AS WE WILL.

YES. WE'LL END YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES, AND THEN WE'LL SPREAD ACROSS THE DIMENSIONS, BUILDING AN ETERNAL CRIMINAL EMPIRE LIKE THE UNIVERSE HAS NEVER SEEN.

DARIUS DUN WILL REIGN SUPREME!

UH-HUH. WELL, IF YOU WANT *MY* OPINION AS A PROFESSIONAL...

...YOU ARE, WITHOUT A DOUBT, *FULL-TILT BUGNUTS.*

BUT, HEY, THIS WHOLE "UNEXPECTED BONDING" YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT IS ***GOOD NEWS***, ACTUALLY—I WASN'T REALLY EXPECTING OUR LITTLE CHAT TO ***TAKE*** SO LONG.

THOSE TURTLES YOU'RE AFTER—YOU KNOW THEY'RE ***NINJAS***, RIGHT?

ACUTELY. THEIR FATHER'S CLAN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR MURDER. WHAT'S YOUR POINT?

WELL, NINJAS DO ***SNEAKY***.

DUH.

YOU... YOU WERE A DISTRACTION.

KIYAAA!!!

WHO GETS A ***GOLD STAR?***

SZAAAMMMM

YOU—YOU HURT US! HOW?

NO. IT DOESN'T MATTER. YOU'RE HERE, NOW.

AND WE'LL CRUSH YOU.

AND THEN WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THOSE INSUFFERABLE FOOLS YOU'VE ALIGNED YOURSELVES WITH!

AND WE CAN'T FORGET THE FOOT CLAN—THEY'LL PAY FOR WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO US!

UFF!

BUT SPLINTER. HE WILL GET IT WORST OF ALL!

WE'LL CONDEMN THAT RAT TO A LIVING HELL WITHOUT END!

NNNRGG...

REVENGE WILL BE OURS!

HRRK!

MAN, DO YOU EVEN KNOW HOW *OFTEN* WE HEAR THAT? IF I HAD A PUNCH CARD, I'D HAVE, LIKE, SOMETHING FOR *FREE* BY NOW.

AND, FOR YOUR INFORMATION, NONE OF *US* WANTED YOU KILLED.

NO EXCUSES!

DUDE, THAT IS SO... *GROSS!*

MIKEY'S RIGHT—YOU MIGHT HAVE A LEGITIMATE GRIPE AGAINST OUR *FATHER*, BUT WE NEVER VOTED FOR YOUR EXECUTION.

CHZAAK

NO!

BUT, REALLY, DID YOU *LEAVE* FATHER A CHOICE?

YOU COULD'VE *SURRENDERED*, BUT INSTEAD YOU THREATENED TO SLOWLY *KILL* MY BROTHERS AND ME WHILE HE *WATCHED!*

YEAH. IF YOU *THINK* ABOUT IT, YOU WERE PRACTICALLY *ASKIN'* FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU.

SO *WHO'S* FAULT'S THAT, *HUH?*

IRRELEVANT!

THE FOOT TRIED TO BULLY THEIR WAY INTO OUR BUSINESS, AND WE'LL SHOW THEM! WITH OUR NEW POWER...

WE'LL SHOW THEM ALL!

KRAK

AAHHHH, SHADDUP!

YOUR JURY-RIGGED WEAPONRY IS AN INSULT. IT CAN HURT US. BUT IT CAN'T DEFEAT US.

AND THE MORE FAMILIAR WE GET WITH OUR NEW FORMS, THE MORE OUR POWER WILL GROW.

AND THEN, YOUR TOYS WON'T EVEN BE A DISTRACTION!

YOU'RE MERELY PROLONGING THE INEVITABLE!

OFFA... ME!

STARTING TO SOUND A LITTLE *DESPERATE*, DON'T YOU THINK?

CHZZAAK

CHZZAAK

YEP. IT'S TOTALLY OUR *CUE*.

YOU FOOLS! YOU COULDN'T CONTAIN THE COLLECTORS WITH YOUR TECHNOLOGY BEFORE... AND WE'RE THE COLLECTORS NOW!

THIS WON'T SAVE YOUR REPTILIAN FRIENDS— OR YOU!

THOSE WEREN'T *MEANT* TO SAVE US. JUST HOLD YOU *FAST* FOR A MOMENT.

BY THE WAY, WE'RE HAPPY THAT YOUR OWN PERSONAL ENMITY ALLOWED US THE TIME TO FINE-TUNE THIS PIECE OF EQUIPMENT TO MORE CLOSELY *MATCH* YOUR OWN UNIQUE PKE SIGNATURE.

WELL, SIGNATURES.

SIX OF *ONE*, DOCTOR!

KLAK

VVVV

EVEN IF YOU MANAGE TO PULL US INTO YOUR LITTLE CONTRAPTION, WE'LL FREE OURSELVES!

WE'LL BREAK OUT!

ESCAPE!

AND ANNIHILATE YOU ALL!

YOU'RE TALKING LIKE WE'RE A BUNCH OF ***RUBES*** WHO CAN'T LEARN FROM OUR MISTAKES!

THIS TRAP ISN'T DRAWING YOU TOWARDS A ***LOW-POWER MOBILE STORAGE UNIT***—IT'S DRAWING YOU TOWARDS A ***MINIATURE DIMENSIONAL GATE***, WITH A PRE-CHOSEN DESTINATION...

...THE ***INSIDE*** OF OUR CONTAINMENT UNIT!

AND THAT HAS ***MORE THAN ENOUGH*** POWER TO KEEP YOU ALL INCARCERATED FOR THE NEXT ***THOUSAND YEARS***, MINIMUM.

WHAT?

NO.

NO!

KLIK

IS... IS THAT *IT?* IS IT *OVER?*

WHY DIDN'T SOMEBODY *TELL* ME IT WAS GONNA BE THAT BRIGHT?

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO LOOK RIGHT *INTO* THE TRAP.

I WANTED TO MAKE *SURE.*

SO WE WON? *DUDE!* THIS CALLS FOR A COWA—

NO. NO ONE IS SAYING *THAT.* STOP TRYING TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

JUST STOP.

AND NONE TOO *SOON,* LOOKS LIKE. THAT GEAR IS *DONE* FOR.

IT'S KIND OF A SHAME. I IMAGINE A *PROTON SWORD* WOULD'VE BEEN A HANDY BACKUP.

I CAN'T BELIEVE LEO HASN'T *ALREADY* SAID THIS, BUT... WE'VE GOTTA GO *HOME.* WE'VE BEEN GONE *WAY* TOO LONG ALREADY.

THAT'S *LIFE,* KID. YOU THINK IT'S GONNA BE EASY AND THEN YOU'RE *PELTED* WITH CURVEBALLS.

BUT WHAT A *RIDE!* I KINDA WANT TO GO BACK AND *VISIT* THOSE GHOSTBUSTURTLES SOMETIME!

GHOSTBUSTURTLES?!

FASCINATING.

A SHORT TIME LATER...

YOU ***SURE*** THOSE THINGS ARE STUCK IN THERE, RIGHT? AFTER ALL THAT ***RUNNIN' AROUND*** THROUGH SPACE AND TIME CRAP WE HADDA DO...

DON'T WORRY. THE SAME TECHNOLOGY THAT KEEPS GHOSTS FROM JUST PHASING RIGHT ON OUT OF THE CONTAINMENT UNIT WILL KEEP THE COLLECTORS—OR, ***UH, DUN***—FROM HOPPING OUT, ALL RIGHT.

THE TRICK WAS JUST GETTING THEM ***ALL*** IN THERE AT ONCE SO THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANY KIND OF ***BEACON*** ON THE OTHER SIDE.

I DON'T KNOW THAT WE EVER ***WOULD*** HAVE IF YOU FOUR HADN'T NEEDED THE HELP.

STANTZ

WELL... I GUESS THIS IS IT. I REALLY WISH WE COULD JUST SIT DOWN AND ***TALK*** SOMETIME WITHOUT GODLIKE BEINGS TRYING TO ***KILL*** US.

PAR FOR THE COURSE AROUND HERE. YOU JUST REMEMBER ***WHAT*** I SAID, HEAR?

WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER ***AGAIN.***

WE ***HAVE*** TO, NOW. ***THIRD TIME'S*** THE ***CHARM***, AS THEY SAY. OR THE ***TRILOGY***. AND WHO ***DOESN'T*** LOVE A GOOD TRILOGY?

BY THE WAY, KID, ***THIS*** IS FOR YOU.

*A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO PSYCHOLOGY? **DUDE!***

YEAH, WELL... YOU CAN PAY ME BACK WHEN YOU FIGURE OUT HOW TO ***EARN*** A LIVING.

THANKS FOR ***EVERYTHING***, EGON. AND I'LL BE SURE TO THROW YOU A DETAILED SET OF DATA ON THE ***METALHEAD*** EXPERIMENT WHEN I FIGURE OUT ***WHERE*** IT ALL IS...

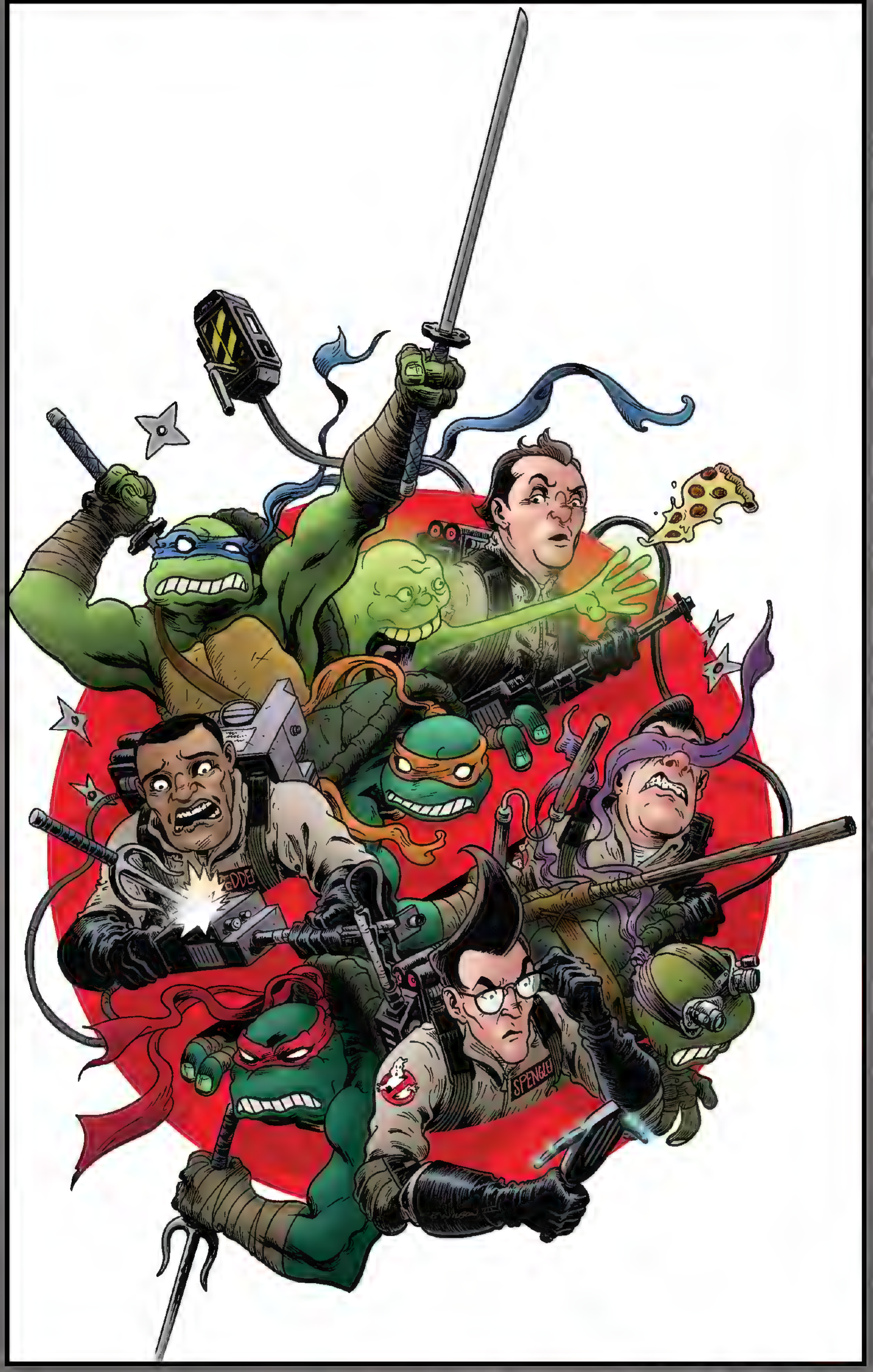
I'M ACTUALLY ***SALIVATING.***

UH, GROSS.

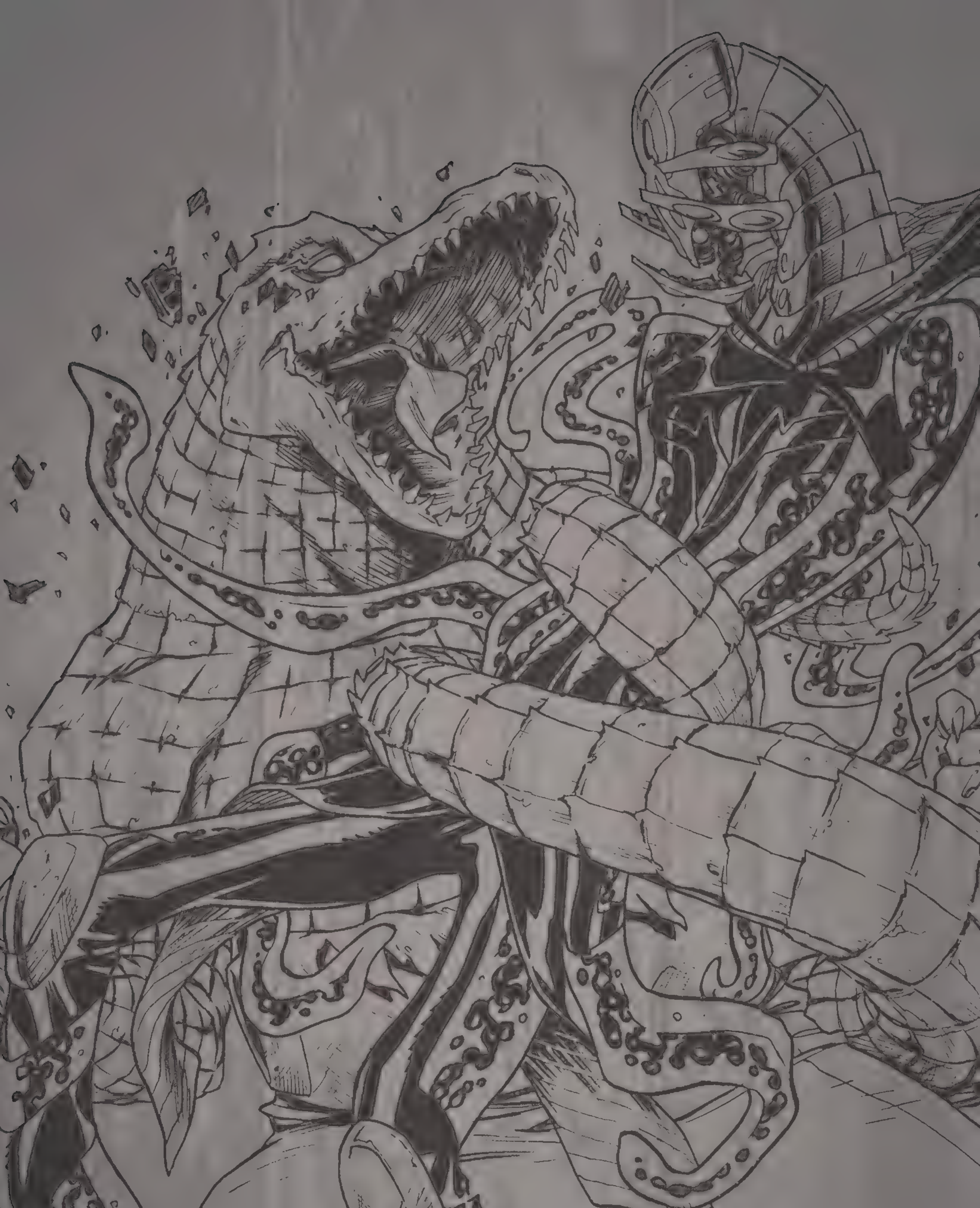
GOODBYE! OH! SAY HELLO TO ***APRIL*** FOR ME!

AND GOOD LUCK ON THE ***OTHER SIDE!***

THE END.
(FOR NOW, ANYWAY!)



art by CHARLES PAUL WILSON III



TURTLES... IN SPACE! KRANG IS SET TO GO ON TRIAL IN DIMENSION X BUT HE HAS HIRED THE CYBERNETIC ASSASSIN HAKK-R TO ELIMINATE THE WITNESSES SET TO TESTIFY AGAINST HIM. MEANWHILE, THE TURTLES RACE TO DIFFERENT PLANETS IN DIMENSION X TO ESCORT THE WITNESSES TO SAFETY BEFORE HAKK-R GETS TO THEM FIRST! THEN, AN ENEMY FROM MASTER SPLINTER'S PAST IS BACK AND HUNGRY FOR REVENGE. TO GET IT, HE'LL SUMMON THE MOST DANGEROUS FOE THAT THE TURTLES HAVE EVER ENCOUNTERED–THE COLLECTORS, SHAPE-SHIFTING DEMONS THAT CAN PASS THROUGH DIMENSIONS AT WILL AND CANNOT BE STOPPED ONCE THEY HAVE BEEN SUMMONED TO HARVEST A SOUL. TO SAVE THEMSELVES, THE TURTLES TEAM UP WITH THE GHOSTBUSTERS, THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO HAVE EVER FACED THE COLLECTORS AND LIVED TO TELL THE TALE.

VOLUME 10 COLLECTS *TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES UNIVERSE* ISSUES #19–20, ISSUES #73–75 OF THE ONGOING *TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES* SERIES, THE *DIMENSION X* MINI-SERIES, AND THE *TMNT/GHOSTBUSTERS 2* CROSSOVER MINI-SERIES.

IDW®

WWW.IDWPUBLISHING.COM

art by BEN BATES

ISSUE #75

MALIGNOID MOTHER SHIP.

"HIVE... *HEAR* ME NOW."

QUEEN MALIGNA SPEAKS.

HEED MY COMMAND.

HEAR HER.

HEAR HER NOW.

HEED HER COMMAND.

SWARM!

"HERE THEY *COME*..."

...AND IT APPEARS MALIGNA'S RELEASING *ALL* HER BUGS THIS TIME—

—EVEN WITH THE *REINFORCEMENTS* KING ZENTER'S SENDING, WE'RE COMPLETELY *OUTNUMBERED*, COMMANDER.

AGREED, LIEUTENANT TROKK. WHICH MEANS *ONE* THING—

—*MORE* BUGS FOR US TO SWAT.

LISTEN UP, *ALL* TRICERATONS—THIS IS COMMANDER ZOM.

IT APPEARS OUR LITTLE HOLIDAY IS OVER. I DON'T NEED TO REMIND YOU THAT WE'RE ONCE AGAIN THE *VANGUARD* AGAINST AN IMPOSSIBLE ENEMY, BECAUSE THAT'S NOTHING NEW FOR US.

BUT, THIS *WILL* BE THE LAST TIME WE FIGHT FOR A CAUSE THAT'S *NOT* OUR OWN.

KING ZENTER HAS *SWORN* TO AWARD US OUR OWN WORLD—OUR VERY OWN *HOME*—IF WE HELP THE NEUTRINOS *SQUASH* THESE INSECTS.

MAKE *NO* MISTAKE—TODAY WE FIGHT FOR *MORE* THAN HONOR.

TODAY, WE FIGHT FOR OUR *FUTURE*.

TODAY, WE FIGHT FOR *FREEDOM!*

CHARGE!

LOOKS LIKE THE PARTY STARTED *WITHOUT* US, KALA—

—BUT I GUESS *SOMEONE'S* GOTTA BE FASHIONABLY LATE, RIGHT?

YOU ASK ME, THE WAY THOSE TRICERATONS ARE OUTGUNNED, WE CAN'T BE *SOON ENOUGH.*

BESIDES, I DOUBT ZAK WOULD KNOW FASHION EVEN IF IT *SMACKED* HIM SQUARE IN THE FACE.

ACE?

THE ONE AND ONLY.

BUT *HOW'D* YOU—

YOUR COMMANDER LOANED ME A SHIP. *NO WAY* I WAS GONNA SKIP OUT ON ALL THE FUN.

AND I BROUGHT SOME *FRIENDS,* TOO.

WELL, IF YOU THINK YOU CAN *HANDLE* IT, THE MORE THE MERRIER.

HANDLE IT? C'MON, KID—IF IT *WALKS* LIKE A DUCK AND *TALKS* LIKE A DUCK, AM I RIGHT?

WHAT THE HECK'S *THAT* SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

IT MEANS...

...I WAS *HATCHED* FOR THIS!

"OUR GUYS AND THE TRICERATONS ARE GIVING IT *ALL* THEY'VE GOT..."

...BUT THERE'S *NO WAY* THEY CAN HOLD OFF *ALL* OF MALIGNA'S HORDE.

THAT'S WHERE *WE* COME IN.

OUR JOB IS TO *STOP* ANY BUGS THAT GET THROUGH AND *PROTECT* THE CITY AT *ANY* COST.

IS THAT UNDERSTOOD?!

HOO-YAH!

GOOD. NOW MAN YOUR BATTLE STATIONS—YOU *KNOW* WHAT TO DO.

COMMANDER DASK, CAN I *TALK* TO YOU FOR A SEC?

OF COURSE, LEO.

DID MY GUYS GET YOU AND YOUR BROTHERS *GEARED UP* OKAY?

YEAH, WE'RE GOOD TO GO. I'M JUST WONDERING—WHAT *EXACTLY* IS MALIGNA AFTER?

WHY'S SHE *ATTACKING* PLANET NEUTRINO?

BECAUSE *THAT'S* WHAT THEY DO, MY FRIEND.

THE MALIGNOID SWARM IS *PARASITIC*—IT EXISTS SOLELY TO *INFEST* AND *CONSUME* ANYTHING IN ITS PATH. IT'S REALLY NO MORE *COMPLEX* THAN THAT, SADLY.

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE COMBINED MIGHT OF THE UTROM EMPIRE *HELD BACK* MALIGNA'S DESTRUCTIVE ADVANCE. BUT THOSE DAYS ARE LONG GONE, AND NOW IT'S UP TO *US* TO FIND A WAY TO STOP THEM.

COMMANDER, THIS IS ZAK! YOU'VE GOT *BOGEYS INBOUND!* SAY AGAIN—BOGEYS INBOUND!

COPY THAT.

TIME TO FIND OUT IF WE'VE GOT *WHAT* IT TAKES.

THERE THEY ARE!

FIRE AT WILL!

"WELL, THIS AIN'T TOO *CRAZY*..."

...*COME* FOR THE SQUISHY ALIEN TRIAL, *STAY* FOR THE SLIMY BUG WAR.

I KNOW. IT'S SO US.

WE'RE GONNA BE *ALL RIGHT*, GUYS.

WE JUST GOTTA *STICK* TOGETHER, *WATCH* EACH OTHER'S BACKS, AND *REMEMBER* OUR TRAINING.

THAT'S FUNNY...

KILL ALL!

...'CAUSE I DON'T REMEMBER EVER TRAININ' FOR *THIS!*

RAAAGH!

ONE DOWN. *EIGHT ZILLION* TO GO.

LOOK ON THE *BRIGHT SIDE*, RAPH...

...'LEAST WE GET TO BE WHERE THE *ACTION* IS, WITH TRICKED-OUT WEAPONS AND JET PACKS AND EVERYTHING—NOT *STUCK* IN SOME STUFFY OLD COURTROOM.

"DONNIE'S GONNA BE TOTALLY *JEALOUS* WHEN HE FINDS OUT."

GAH! I FEEL SO *USELESS* JUST STANDING AROUND DOING *NOTHING* LIKE THIS.

PLEASE, DONATELLO, YOU MUST CONTROL YOUR FRUSTRATION.

BUT, PROFESSOR, I—

YOU ARE DOING **EXACTLY** WHAT YOU NEED TO BE DOING, MY FRIEND.

YES, THERE IS A BATTLE TAKING PLACE OUTSIDE—BUT THERE IS STILL A TRIAL HAPPENING DOWN HERE AS WELL. WHILE WE PRAY FOR A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THE FORMER, WE **MUST** MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF THE LATTER.

THESE WITNESSES ARE **OUR** RESPONSIBILITY.

THIS WILL BE *OVER* SOON, LITTLE ONE.

YEAH, IT'S GOING TO BE *OKAY*, B'EEN.

I'M SCARED.

DANGER!

IT IS OUR SWORN DUTY TO KEEP THEM SAFE, DONATELLO.

I KNOW, PROFESSOR. I'M SORRY.

IT'S JUST... I'M *WORRIED* MY BROTHERS ARE IN—

BAWOOM

WELL, SEEMS YOU'RE ALL HERE.

KOFF KOFF

HOW CONVENIENT.

"FIRST RULE OF AN AMBUSH—"

—TAKE OUT THE BIG GUNS!

FZZARP

UNFF!

AND A SYMBIOTIC EYE OR TWO WHENEVER YOU CAN!

SHLKK

HEY!

EYMO!

SWISSH

HIYAH!

NICE FORM... POOR AIM.

SLAPP

GUH!

LIKE YOUR SUMO FRIEND, YOU LACK VISION.

HAKK-R... I'M GOING TO...

YOU'RE GOING TO STAY DOWN, ROBOT.

WHONK

FOR GOOD THIS TIME.

OKAY, BIG GUNS ELIMINATED? CHECK.

SECOND RULE OF AN AMBUSH—

—DON'T FORGET THE LEFTOVERS.

HELLO, LEFTOVERS.

UM, HEY... CAN WE *TALK* ABOUT THIS? I MEAN, C'MON... NO NEED FOR *VIOLENCE* HERE.

I'M A *PROMOTER*, NOT A FIGHTER.

REALLY? AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU WERE A TALKING TREE.

ZAP

HRRGK!

AND WHAT ABOUT YOU TWO PIPSQUEAKS?

NO FIGHT IN YOU, EITHER?

GYAH!

POUF

BURNS!

IT BURNS!

THAT WAS FOR *TOTUS*, YOU BIG UGLY WEED!

WHOA! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING, RAPH!

TELL THAT... TO *THIS* SPAZMOID... LEO.

PLUS, IT AIN'T LIKE ANY OF US ARE *EXPERTS* WITH THESE JETPACKS.

KRAK

SPEAK FOR *YOURSELF*, BRO!

AND YOU DUDES SAID ALL THOSE HOURS PLAYING VIDEO GAMES WAS A *WASTE*. HA!

MIKEY, DON'T GET COCKY. THIS BATTLE'S *FAR* FROM O—

-VEERRR!

WHOMP

LEO!

YOU BETTER BE *RIGHT* ABOUT THOSE VIDEO GAMES, RUNT.

"HE WENT DOWN *THIS* WAY..."

...AFTER I *SPRAYED* HIM WITH MY POLLEN.

THAT WAS VERY BRAVE OF YOU, POLLY.

YES, IT *WAS*, LITTLE ONE.

NOW YOU TWO STAY *BEHIND* ME. THAT CREATURE WON'T *SURPRISE* ME AGAIN.

BEHIND YOU? THAT SOUNDS LIKE A *GREAT* PLAN, ANEMON.

I WASN'T TALKING TO *YOU*, STUMP.

STILL A GREAT PLAN.

I'M AFRAID HAKK-R'S TERRIBLE SURPRISES ARE **FAR** FROM OVER, MY FRIENDS.

OH, NO... *JUDGE GORATH.*

OH, YES. PERMANENTLY RECESSED.

THIRD RULE OF AN AMBUSH— LEAVE NO SURVIVORS.

STARTING WITH THAT DAMN PLANT.

SMSH

LEO, WE'RE *COMIN'!*

HURRY UP!

WE'RE HURR—*WHOA!* DONNIE?

MIKEY?

WHAT *UP*, BRO?

WHERE THE HECK DID YOU GET THOSE *SWEET JETPACKS?*

LESS *GEEKING*, MORE *FIGHTING!*

KILL!

VERY WELL, MONSTER...

GLLRGK!

IF YOU *INSIST.*

KRRNCH

UH... THANKS, LEATHERHEAD.

OF COURSE.

WHAT ABOUT *THIS* BEAST?

WANT ME TO PUT *HIM* THROUGH A WALL, TOO?

ONE MOVE AND I'LL SPRAY YOU *AGAIN*.

NO... NRGGK... NO MORE SPRAYING!

HAKK-R? GREAT. THAT'S *ALL* WE NEED RIGHT NOW.

WE'VE GOT *ZERO TIME* TO WASTE ON HIM—THE SWARM'S NOT LETTING UP.

WE'VE GOTTA GET *BACK* IN THE FIGHT.

BUT... WE CAN'T JUST *HURT* HIM, EITHER, GUYS. I MEAN IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S *GIVING UP*.

ACTUALLY... I DON'T THINK WE HAVE TO DO *EITHER* OF THOSE THINGS.

POLLY, YOUR CONCENTRATED POLLEN—WHY DID IT *BURN* HAKK-R WHEN IT ONLY MADE MIKEY *HALLUCINATE* ON YOUR PLANET?*

BECAUSE THE EFFECTS *CHANGE* DEPENDING ON HOW MUCH I RELEASE. THE *MORE* I SPRAY, THE *MORE* IT HURTS... AND THE *LONGER* IT LASTS.

AND IF YOU RELEASED *ALL* OF IT?

THEN SOMEBODY'S GOING TO HAVE A *REALLY*, REALLY BAD DAY. PAIN, CONFUSION... THE WORKS.

*See **TMNT: DIMENSIONS X #5** – B.C.

ONLY PROBLEM IS, LOSING ALL MY POLLEN WOULD SEND ME INTO A DEEP, *DORMANT* STATE.

NO—*NOT* IF I'M ON MY HOME PLANET.

PERMANENTLY?

TOTUS IS THE ONLY PLACE WITH ALL THE *MINERALS* AND *NOURISHMENT* I'D NEED TO WAKE UP AND GET BETTER.

HM.

STUMP, WE NEED TO *TALK.*

UH... OKAY.

WHAT?!

OKAY... *FINE!*

OF ALL THE IDIOTIC, LAME-BRAINED IDEAS...

UM... MR. R?

Y-YES?

I HEAR YOU'RE A BIT OF A *BUSINESSMAN.*

I'VE BEEN... HRGK... KNOWN TO DABBLE.

WELL, THEN...

"...HOW'D YOU LIKE TO MAKE A *DEAL?*"

HIVE WARRIORS...

...REPORT TO YOUR QUEEN.

WE FIGHT ON, YOUR MAJESTY— WE DESTROY ALL.

WE WILL PREVAIL.

FOOM

EXCELLENT.

WHERE, WHERE, WHERE-AH!

THERE!

ONE NASTY VIRUS, COMING UP.

SOON, PLANET NEUTRINO WILL BE—

—EH?

WHO—?

JUST A LITTLE VENTILATION UPGRADE.

INTRUDER.

INTRUDER.

DESTROY.

ELIMINATE.

I'D REALLY RATHER NOT HAVE TO SHOOT IN SUCH TIGHT QUARTERS. JUST A FEW MORE SECONDS...

DESTROY.

ELIMINATE.

AND... DONE.

TIME TO BUG OUT.

FOOM

ffffffttttt

BURNS!

IT BURNS!

LIKE FIRE!

MY MIND—IT SPINS!

SO MUCH PAIN! SO MUCH... CONFUSION!

MY HIVE, THE INTRUDER HAS POISONED US!

"WE MUST FLEE!"

WAIT A SEC—

—WHAT THE *HELL'S* GOING ON?

GUYS, THIS IS ACE...

...ARE YOU SEEIN' WHAT *I'M* SEEIN'?

AFFIRMATIVE, DUCK-MAN...

...THEY'RE *RUNNING!*

THIS IS COMMANDER ZOM. I'M SEEING THE *SAME THING* OVER HERE.

COMMANDER DASK, ARE YOU—

WAY *AHEAD* OF YOU, ZOM...

...THE BUGS ARE *RETREATING* DOWN HERE, TOO.

I HAVE NO CLUE *HOW* OR *WHY*...

...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE *WON.*

GUYS... *IT WORKED!*

SWEET PLAN, BRO. *NICE* GOIN'.

THANKS, RAPH. I'M JUST GLAD I COULD *HELP* AGAINST MALIGNA.

BUT, DUDES... I DON'T GET WHAT HAPPENED. WHAT THE HECK *SCARED* ALL THOSE BUGS AWAY?

HONESTLY, IT'S NOT TOO *COMPLICATED,* MIKEY.

PROFESSOR HONEYCUTT HAD TOLD ME THAT THE MALIGNOIDS FUNCTION AS A *HIVE-MIND,* COMPLETELY DEPENDENT UPON THEIR QUEEN FOR *EVERYTHING*—THE ACTIONS THEY TAKE, THEIR WELL-BEING... EVEN THEIR EMOTIONS.

SO I FIGURED, IF WE COULD GET DIRECTLY TO *MALIGNA* SOMEHOW—MESS WITH HER MIND AND THROW HER OFF HER GAME—WE'D BE ABLE TO KNOCK OUT THE *ENTIRE SWARM* IN THE PROCESS.

AND AFTER POLLY EXPLAINED HOW *POTENT* A FULL BLAST OF HER POLLEN IS, I KNEW WE HAD THE PERFECT WEAPON TO *DO* IT.

WE JUST NEEDED A DELIVERY METHOD, WHICH IS WHERE *HAKK-R* CAME INTO PLAY.

"BY *DOWNLOADING* POLLY'S POLLEN INTO HIS CYBERNETICS, HAKK-R BECAME LIKE A LIVING FLASH-DRIVE, EXCEPT INSTEAD OF *DATA,* HE WAS CARRYING A *NASTY HALLUCINOGEN.*"

AFTER THAT, IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF CONVINCING HAKK-R IT WAS *WORTH* HIS WHILE TO *TELEPORT* TO MALIGNA'S SHIP AND *DOWNLOAD* THE POLLEN INTO ITS VENTILATION SYSTEM. AND THANKS TO STUMP, WE *FOUND* A WAY.

FEH, SAVE YOUR THANKS. SLING'S GONNA *KILL* ME WHEN HE FINDS OUT WE OWE HAKK-R *TWICE* WHAT KRANG WAS PAYING HIM AND *LIFETIME* BOX-SEATS TO *GRAPPLEGANZA.*

BUT... WHAT ABOUT POLLY? IS *SHE* GONNA BE OKAY?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT *HER,* MIKE—

"—SHE'S ONLY *SLEEPING.* WE'LL GET HER BACK HOME AS *SOON* AS THE TRIAL IS OVER. SHE'LL BE FINE."

REST EASY, LITTLE HERO.

YOU'VE *EARNED* IT.

NOT *SO BAD* FOR A "LEFTOVER," *HUH?*

THE NEXT DAY.

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WERE ABLE TO GET THE TRIAL BACK ON TRACK SO *QUICKLY*, PROFESSOR. I THOUGHT WE WERE LOOKING AT A *WEEK'S DELAY* AT LEAST.

YES, WELL, AS THEY SAY ON YOUR PLANET, TIME AND TIDE WAIT FOR NO MAN, DONATELLO... AND NEITHER SHOULD THE SCALES OF JUSTICE.

MALIGNA'S SWARM IS GONE AND KRANG'S JUDGMENT AWAITS. SO IT'S BACK TO WORK FOR US.

SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.

BY THE WAY, KRANG'S NOT LOOKING *SO PLEASED* WITH HIMSELF ANYMORE, *HUH?*

"SOMETHING TELLS ME HE FOUND OUT ABOUT HAKK-R *DUMPING* HIM FOR THE HIGHEST BIDDER."

BLASTED, TWO-FACED, *BACK-STABBING* BOUNTY HUNTER...

YOU COULD *SAY* HE LOOKS A LITTLE "STUMPED."

GET IT, PROFESSOR? *STUMPED!*

WHAT I GET IS THAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO LEAVE THE ATROCIOUS PUNS TO MICHELANGELO, MY FRIEND.

YEAH, GOOD IDEA.

IN ALL SERIOUSNESS, *WHO'S* GOING TO PRESIDE OVER THE TRIAL AFTER JUDGE GORATH'S DEATH?

I BELIEVE WE'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT.

ORDER IN THE COURT!

DEPARTMENT ONE OF THE SMADA CITY INTER-PLANETARY COURT IS NOW *BACK* IN SESSION FOR THE CASE OF DIMENSION X VERSUS GENERAL KRANG OF UTROMINON.

ALL RISE FOR...

...HIS ROYAL MAJESTY, *KING ZENTER OF PLANET NEUTRINO!*

WHAT?!

HE'S PART OF THE WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL. THIS *CAN'T* BE LEGAL!

ON THE CONTRARY, IT'S BOTH LEGAL *AND* ESTABLISHED PROTOCOL.

PLANET NEUTRINO LAW STATES THAT THE *KING* MAY STEP IN TO SEE THE PROCEEDINGS THROUGH TO COMPLETION.

BUT... WE'LL *LOSE*.

IF WE DO, WE'LL HAVE WHICHEVER *FOOL* HIRED THAT CYBERNETIC ASSASSIN TO MURDER JUDGE GORATH TO THANK, *WON'T* WE?

I WONDER WHO *THAT* COULD HAVE BEEN, *HM?*

JUST... JUST DO YOUR DAMNED JOB AND GET ME *OUT* OF HERE.

"CHECK OUT *KRANG*, DUDES..."

...HE LOOKS LIKE MORE OF A *SOURPUSS* THAN NORMAL.

YEAH—BUT I'M STILL TICKED WE LET HAKK-R GO. TALK ABOUT A SCUMBAG THAT *NEEDS* TO BE ON TRIAL.

HAKK-R WILL *ANSWER* FOR HIS CRIMES EVENTUALLY. PLANET NEUTRINO IS BY NO MEANS *BEHOLDEN* TO HIS DEAL WITH STUMP.

I'VE NO DOUBTS MY FATHER WILL HAVE HIM *DIRECTLY* IN HIS SIGHTS AS SOON AS GENERAL KRANG'S TRIAL HAS CONCLUDED.

WELL, AT LEAST WE KNOW KRANG GOIN' DOWN'S A *LOCK* NOW WITH THE *KING* BEIN' THE JUDGE.

DON'T BE SO *CERTAIN*, RAPHAEL. IT IS TRUE THAT MY HUSBAND HOLDS *NO AFFECTIONS* FOR GENERAL KRANG. BUT IN *ALL* MATTERS...

"...ZENTER IS *GUIDED* BY NEUTRINO LAWS AND TRADITIONS."

PLEASE, BE SEATED.

PROSECUTION, YOU MAY CALL YOUR *NEXT* WITNESS.

THANK YOU, YOUR MAJESTY.

THE PROSECUTION ONCE **AGAIN** CALLS...

M.LEATHERHEAD OF PLANET EARTH.

FOOM!

I WOULD LIKE TO START BY THANKING YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE WHILE **OTHER** MATTERS WERE ATTENDED TO, SIR.

WE APOLOGIZE FOR ANY **INCONVENIENCE** THE DELAY MAY HAVE CAUSED YOU.

I APPRECIATE THE SENTIMENT, PROFESSOR, THOUGH IT'S *UNNECESSARY*.

I'VE WAITED *CENTURIES* TO SEE MY JAILER BROUGHT TO JUSTICE. REALLY, WHAT'S A FEW MORE *DAYS?*

UNDERSTOOD. AND, FRANKLY, THAT IS **WHY** WE'VE ASKED YOU HERE TODAY.

YOU REFERRED TO THE DEFENDANT AS YOUR "JAILER" JUST NOW. COULD YOU PLEASE **ELABORATE** ON THAT DESCRIPTION?

CERTAINLY, PROFESSOR...

...I CAN THINK OF VERY FEW THINGS THAT WOULD GIVE ME *MORE* PLEASURE.

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN, AS A *TRUE CHILD* OF MOTHER NATURE, MY EXISTENCE WAS ONE OF BLISSFUL IGNORANCE, LIVING MOMENT TO MOMENT, WITH *SURVIVAL* AS MY ONE AND ONLY CONCERN... JUST AS NATURE *INTENDED*.

SADLY, THAT *ALL* CHANGED WHEN I WAS INADVERTENTLY *EXPOSED* TO KRANG'S MUTAGEN AND *TRANSFORMED* INTO THE MONSTER YOU SEE BEFORE YOU TODAY.

NO— KRANG WAS NOT *DIRECTLY* RESPONSIBLE FOR MY MUTATION. HOWEVER, IT *WAS* HIS POISON THAT CHANGED ME.

AND IT WAS *HE,* UPON DISCOVERING MY NEW FORM, WHO CAPTURED ME, IMPRISONED ME, AND SUBSEQUENTLY TORTURED ME FOR *COUNTLESS* YEARS AS PART OF HIS TWISTED SCHEME TO BUILD A *MUTANT ARMY* TO CONQUER EARTH.*

UNDERSTAND—HAD I BEEN IN MY *NATURAL* STATE OF IGNORANCE— PERHAPS THEN THE TORTURE WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE BEARABLE AS I WOULD NOT HAVE *KNOWN* ANY BETTER WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO ME.

*See **TMNT #58** – B.C.

"BUT I WAS MUTATED, CHANGED... *FULLY COGNIZANT* OF EACH AND EVERY SECOND OF PAIN AND AGONY *INFLICTED* AGAINST MY BODY AND MY RAPIDLY EVOLVING MIND.

"IT WAS AN UNENDING HORROR *BEYOND* DESCRIPTION..."

...AND IT WAS ALL *KRANG'S* DOING.

UNFORTUNATELY, I'M NOT *ALONE* IN THIS. THERE ARE OTHERS—*MANY* OTHERS—WHO HAVE FALLEN *VICTIM* TO KRANG'S FOUL MACHINATIONS.

"EARTH CREATURES, WHO *PREDATE* EVEN MYSELF, WERE STOLEN FROM THEIR *RIGHTFUL* HOME, TRANSPORTED TO THIS STRANGE DIMENSION, MUTATED INTO FREAKS OF NATURE, AND FORCED TO FIGHT THEIR *CAPTORS' WARS* FOR THEM..."

...EVEN TO THIS *VERY DAY.*

ULTIMATELY, I REALIZE THAT IS WHAT *THIS* TRIAL IS ABOUT—WAR. CRIMES OF WAR, SPECIFICALLY. AND IT SEEMS ALMOST *COMICAL* TO ME THAT SUCH A THING IS EVEN NECESSARY. WHO HERE DOESN'T BELIEVE KRANG EGREGIOUSLY *GUILTY* OF THE ATTEMPTED MURDERS OF MILLIONS OF INNOCENT LIVES?

FARCE OF THE CENTURY INDEED—MORE SO, BECAUSE DESTRUCTION WAS NOT HIS *GREATEST* CRIME.

CREATION WAS.

KRANG PLAYED AT BEING A GOD, CREATING MONSTROSITIES THAT WERE *NEVER* MEANT TO BE PART OF MOTHER NATURE'S GRAND PLAN.

IF KRANG IS TO FACE HIS *JUST* PUNISHMENT THEN, ABOVE ALL ELSE, HE MUST PAY DEARLY FOR HIS CRIMES AGAINST *NATURE*.

WOW.

I BELIEVE THAT'S WHAT YOU EARTHLINGS CALL A HOMERUN.

NO FURTHER QUESTIONS, YOUR MAJESTY.

COUNCILOR VIN-BINI?

I... I HAVE *NOTHING* FOR THIS WITNESS, SIRE.

I WOULDN'T EVEN BEGIN TO KNOW *WHERE* TO START.

VERY WELL.

FOOM

PROFESSOR HONEYCUTT, I REALIZE YOU YET INTEND TO CALL WITNESSES *ACE DUCK* AND *POLYGOT* TO THE STAND, BUT THEIR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION ON *BEHALF* OF PLANET NEUTRINO IN THE RECENT SKIRMISH AGAINST THE MALIGNOID SWARM CREATES AN *UNAVOIDABLE* CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

THEREFORE, IT IS MY SWORN DUTY AS ACTING JUDGE IN THIS CASE TO *WITHDRAW* BOTH WITNESSES FROM THE PROSECUTION ROSTER.

WE UNDERSTAND, YOUR HIGHNESS.

DEFENSE, YOU MAY *PROCEED* WITH YOUR WITNESSES.

THANK YOU, KING ZENTER. WE HAVE ONLY *ONE* WITNESS TO CALL—

—GENERAL KRANG, FORMERLY OF UTROMINON.

LET'S GET THIS FOOL'S BUSINESS OVER WITH, SHALL WE?

"MAN, KRANG REALLY *IS* CRAZY—"

—EVERYONE KNOWS THE ***DEFENDANT'S*** NOT SUPPOSED TO TESTIFY AT THEIR OWN TRIAL. THAT'S LIKE *LAW AND ORDER 101!*

MORE ***STUPID*** THAN CRAZY, YOU ASK ME.

OR PERHAPS ***NEITHER***, RAPHAEL.

IF THERE IS ***ONE THING*** WE NEUTRINOS HAVE LEARNED ABOUT ***GENERAL KRANG*** OVER THE YEARS...

"...IT IS TO ***NEVER UNDERESTIMATE*** HIS CRUEL CUNNING."

GENERAL KRANG, WE HAVE ALL HEARD THE ***TESTIMONIES*** OF THE WITNESSES.

EACH, IN THEIR OWN WAY, HAS A ***HISTORY*** WITH YOU—SOME BETTER THAN OTHERS—THAT MUCH IS INDISPUTABLE.

HISTORY OR NOT, HOWEVER, THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION ***BEFORE*** THIS COURT IS THIS—

—ARE YOU, GENERAL KRANG, A ***WAR CRIMINAL?***

WELL, IF BEING A DEDICATED WARRIOR FOR MY PEOPLE IS A CRIME, THEN, ***YES***, I SUPPOSE I'M GUILTY AS CHARGED.

LET'S GET SOMETHING ***STRAIGHT*** RIGHT FROM THE START—MY FATHER, ***EMPEROR QUANIN***, WAS A GREAT UTROM.

IN HIS LIFETIME, HE ***SINGLE-HANDEDLY*** TURNED UTROMINON FROM SOME BACKWATER MUD-BALL INTO THE RULING SEAT OF THE ***MIGHTIEST*** EMPIRE THIS DIMENSION HAS EVER KNOWN.

THERE WAS ***NO FIGHT*** HE WOULD SHIRK, ***NO ENEMY*** HE WOULD FLEE. BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE—

"—MY FATHER WAS ***ALSO*** A GREEDY FOOL WITH NO STRATEGIC FORESIGHT, WHO DIDN'T KNOW ***WHEN*** TO ADMIT ENOUGH WAS ENOUGH, AND WHO ***DROVE*** OUR PLANET—AND NEARLY OUR ENTIRE RACE—TO UTTER RUIN."

UPON HIS IGNOMINIOUS DEMISE, MY FATHER, THE ***ONCE*** GREAT EMPEROR OF THE UTROM EMPIRE, LEFT HIS ONLY SON—***ME***—A DESPERATE SITUATION IN ***DIRE NEED*** OF DESPERATE MEASURES.

AND WHAT DID YOU DO, GENERAL?

I ACTED, SWIFTLY AND DECISIVELY—TO ***SAVE*** MY PEOPLE.

AND ***HOW*** DID YOU DO THAT?

BY ***ANY MEANS*** I DEEMED NECESSARY.

WHICH IS EXACTLY ***WHY*** I DEEM THIS TRIAL ***UNNECESSARY.***

WHEN FACED WITH THE ***TOTAL*** ANNIHILATION OF MY PEOPLE, I DID WHAT I ***HAD*** TO DO TO ENSURE OUR SURVIVAL. THE ODDS WERE AGAINST ME AND I ***SHOULD*** HAVE FAILED, BUT I DID NOT. WHY?

BECAUSE I LET ***NOTHING*** STAND IN MY WAY. I USED ***WHO*** I HAD TO USE, I KILLED ***WHO*** I HAD TO KILL... I DID ***WHAT*** I HAD TO DO.

WE CAN DEBATE THE ***ETHICS*** OF MY METHODS UNTIL THE END OF TIME, BUT THE FINAL RESULT ***SPEAKS*** FOR ITSELF—THE UTROM RACE SURVIVED.

AND HAD I BEEN ALLOWED TO ***CONTINUE***, THEY WOULD HAVE THRIVED.

I KNOW YOU UNDERSTAND, ZENTER. LET'S FACE IT, YOU HAVE THE ***GALL*** TO ACCUSE ME OF SO-CALLED WAR CRIMES AND SIT IN ***JUDGMENT*** OF ME NO LESS, WHEN THE TRUTH IS, YOU AND I ***AREN'T*** SO DIFFERENT.

I'M NO FOOL—WHEN PUSH CAME TO SHOVE AGAINST MALIGNA, YOU DIDN'T ***HESITATE*** TO CAJOLE AND COERCE IN ORDER TO BUILD THE FORCE YOU NEEDED TO SAVE YOUR PLANET, ***DID*** YOU?

I WONDER...

...HOW MANY INNOCENT TRICERATONS ***DIED*** SAVING ***YOUR*** PEOPLE, HM?

BUT, UNLIKE YOU, I DON'T PRETEND TO HAVE THE ***RIGHT TO JUDGE*** WHAT YOU'VE DONE, ZENTER. ON THE CONTRARY, I ***RESPECT*** YOUR ACTIONS.

YOU SAVED YOUR PEOPLE—NO MATTER THE ***COST***... AND NO MATTER WHO HAD TO ***PAY*** IT.

YOU DID WHAT YOU ***HAD*** TO DO.

SO TO REITERATE, COUNSELOR, IF ***SAVING*** MY PEOPLE FROM A ***TERRIBLE DEATH*** IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE, THEN I'M AS ***GUILTY*** AS THEY COME.

BUT I'M NOT THE ***ONLY ONE*** IN THIS COURTROOM.

THANK YOU, GENERAL. NO MORE QUESTIONS.

PROSECUTION? YOUR WITNESS.

I... I HAVE **NO QUESTIONS** FOR THIS WITNESS, SIRE.

BUT, PROFESSOR...

I WOULDN'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN, DONATELLO.

VERY WELL— PROCEED WITH YOUR *CLOSING ARGUMENTS.*

MY TRUE NAME IS **ZAYTON HONEYCUTT.** I AM A NEUTRINO SCIENTIST AND PROFESSOR. FOR A TIME, I WAS CALLED **CHET ALLEN**, MASQUERADING AS A HUMAN SCIENTIST ON PLANET EARTH.

AND NOW, STANDING BEFORE YOU, I AM A ROBOTIC CONSTRUCT KNOWN SIMPLY TO MANY AS THE **FUGITOID.**

I SHARE THIS PERSONAL INFORMATION BECAUSE, IN FULL DISCLOSURE, THE CASE AGAINST GENERAL KRANG IS A VERY **PERSONAL** ONE FOR ME.

YOU SEE, UNDER THIS ARTIFICIAL EXTERIOR STILL EXISTS THE VERY REAL SOUL OF THE MAN HONEYCUTT, A WIDOWER AND MOURNING FATHER, WHOSE BELOVED FAMILY WAS BRUTALLY **MURDERED** AT THE BEHEST OF THE DEFENDANT.

YES, I AM BUT ONE PERSON WITH A TRAGIC STORY.

BUT I AM **NOT** ALONE.

THERE ARE MILLIONS JUST LIKE ME, IN TWO DIMENSIONS, WHO **SHARE** MY FATE. MANY OF THE WITNESSES WHO TESTIFIED IN THIS VERY CASE ARE PROOF OF THAT.

AND HAD THE DEFENDANT NOT BEEN STOPPED WHEN HE WAS, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN MILLIONS—PERHAPS, BILLIONS—**MORE.**

GENERAL KRANG FASHIONS HIMSELF A VICTIM OF CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND HIS CONTROL, FORCED TO BE A RESCUER OF HIS PEOPLE. THAT IS ONLY A **HALF-TRUTH.**

HE DID RESCUE HIS PEOPLE BY ANY MEANS HE DEEMED NECESSARY. BUT **WHAT KIND** OF SAVIOR FINDS THE ANNIHILATION OF MILLIONS OF INNOCENT SOULS AS ONE OF THOSE ACCEPTABLE MEANS?

THE ANSWER IS NONE, BECAUSE MASS MURDER IS A METHOD **ONLY** OF A GENOCIDAL MANIAC.

GENERAL KRANG'S GUILT IS **BEYOND** QUESTION. AND SPEAKING FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, THE SUFFERING HE HAS CAUSED GOES ON AND ON... AND ON.

THANK YOU.

SIRE, YOU HAVE HEARD GENERAL KRANG DESCRIBED BY MANY ***DEROGATORY*** TERMS DURING THIS TRIAL—A MASS MURDERER, A MONSTER, A CRIMINAL AGAINST NATURE, AND SO ON.

BUT THERE IS ONE TERM THE ESTEEMED PROSECUTOR USED JUST NOW THAT I BELIEVE IS THE MOST ***INSULTING*** OF ALL—"VICTIM."

MY CLIENT MAY BE MANY THINGS TO MANY PEOPLE, INCLUDING HIMSELF, BUT WHAT HE MOST CERTAINLY IS ***NOT***, IS A VICTIM.

THAT HE FOUND HIMSELF IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION NOT OF HIS OWN MAKING, ***NONE*** CAN ARGUE—BUT TO THINK THIS MADE HIM ***HELPLESS*** IN ANY WAY IS UTTERLY RIDICULOUS.

GENERAL KRANG, BY HIS ***OWN*** ADMISSION, WAS—AND IS—A ***DEDICATED WARRIOR*** IN THE SERVICE OF THE UTROM RACE.

AND WHEN ALL SEEMED LOST, HE STEPPED UP TO ***PROVE*** HIS DEDICATION BY ***DEFYING*** BOTH HIS FATHER AND THE COLOSSAL ODDS AGAINST HIM TO ***SAVE*** HIS KIND.

WERE HIS METHODS ***UNORTHODOX?*** CERTAINLY. BUT IT WAS WAR, AND WHEN IS WAR EVER ORTHODOX?

NEVER. IT IS ALWAYS ***UNPREDICTABLE*** WITH THE ONLY CONSTANT BEING KILL OR BE KILLED.

GENERAL KRANG CHOSE THE ***FORMER*** FOR HIS PEOPLE, AND IN DOING SO, THEY ***SURVIVED***.

WHICH BRINGS US TO THE QUESTION OF GENOCIDE—EITHER IT ***EXISTS*** OR IT ***DOES NOT***.

MY CLIENT ***ADMITS*** TO KILLING OTHERS—AN ***EXPECTED*** REALITY OF WAR. HOWEVER, WHEN ALL IS ACCOUNTED FOR, HE DID ***NOT*** DESTROY ***WHOLE*** PLANETS OR ***ENTIRE*** PEOPLES.

NO—HE ***FOUGHT*** A WAR AND, DESPITE ***SAVING*** HIS PEOPLE, ULTIMATELY ***LOST***.

AND NOW HE SITS IN PRISON AWAITING JUDGMENT BY THE ***VERY PEOPLE*** WHO REAP THE ***BENEFITS*** OF HIS DEFEAT. PERHAPS THIS TRIAL SHOULD ***REALLY*** BE ABOUT ***WAR-PROFITEERING***.

AND PERHAPS GENERAL KRANG SHOULD ***NOT*** BE THE ONE WHO ***STANDS*** ACCUSED.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

THANK YOU BOTH. I WILL DELIVER MY ***VERDICT*** SHORTLY.

WHAT HAPPENS *NOW*, PROFESSOR?

WHILE THE KING CONSIDERS HIS VERDICT, THE ROYAL FAMILY AND THE WITNESSES WILL BE ALLOWED **INTO** THE COURTROOM—

"—IT IS A PLANET NEUTRINO TRADITION THAT THEY **ALL** BE PRESENT WHEN A DECISION IS RENDERED."

DO YOU THINK WE WON?

FRANKLY, I DON'T KNOW HOW **ANYONE** CAN BE CONSIDERED A WINNER IN SUCH A TRAVESTY AS THIS.

WHATEVER THE FINAL VERDICT, THIS CASE IS ABOUT DEATH AND DESTRUCTION, AND THAT IS **ALWAYS** ABOUT HORRIBLE LOSS.

SO, WHAT DO YOU *SAY*, MY FRIEND? THINK KRANG'S GOIN' *DOWN* OR WHAT?

I SAY I'M *NOT* YOUR FRIEND. AND AS FOR KRANG'S VERDICT...

"...IT'S NOT WHAT *I* THINK THAT MATTERS."

FOOM

ORDER IN THE COURT!

ALL *RISE* FOR HIS ROYAL MAJESTY, KING ZENTER OF PLANET NEUTRINO!

PLEASE— BE SEATED.

I AM READY TO *RENDER* MY DECISION.

I HAVE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED *ALL* WITNESS TESTIMONY AND COUNSELORS' ARGUMENTS IN THIS CASE.

I HAVE STUDIED THE EVIDENCE AND HAVE DONE MY *BEST* TO SIFT THROUGH THE FACTS, SUCH AS THEY ARE.

I HAVE ALSO WITNESSED *MURDEROUS ATROCITIES* DURING THIS TRIAL—TO BOTH THE GOOD COUNSELOR APAP AND THE HONORABLE JUDGE GORATH—THAT, THOUGH NOT *COMMITTED* BY THE DEFENDANT, MAY VERY WELL BE *ATTRIBUTABLE* TO HIM.

HOWEVER, WITHOUT PROOF, IT IS ONLY *CONJECTURE* ON MY PART.

WHAT I *DO* KNOW IS THE ACTUAL DEEDS WERE COMMITTED BY THE ASSASSIN KNOWN AS *HAKK-R*.

FURTHERMORE, IT WAS HAKK-R WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR DELIVERING THE MEANS TO *REPEL* THE MALIGNOID ATTACK AGAINST PLANET NEUTRINO.

AND ULTIMATELY, *THAT* PARTICULAR ACT—USING A KNOWN KILLER TO *SAVE* MY PEOPLE—IS ATTRIBUTABLE ONLY TO *ME*.

UNDERSTAND—I DO NOT BELIEVE GENERAL KRANG TO BE INNOCENT IN A *MORAL SENSE*. NO—HE HAS MURDERED, MAIMED, AND TORTURED *COUNTLESS* INNOCENTS IN THE *DARK INTERESTS* OF HIS CAUSE.

AND YET, I DO NOT THINK IT *PROPER* THAT I PASS JUDGMENT IN THIS CASE, EITHER, SINCE I, TOO, HAVE MADE *QUESTIONABLE* MORAL DECISIONS AFFECTING INNOCENTS FOR MY *OWN* CAUSE... AND MY OWN *PEOPLE*.

THEREFORE, I HAVE COME TO A *FINAL DECISION* IN THIS MATTER.

I HAVE CONSULTED WITH *ADVISOR MA'RIELL* OF PLANET EARTH'S BURNOW ISLAND. SHE HAS AGREED, IN THE INTEREST OF PUTTING ALL ANIMOSITIES BETWEEN OUR PEOPLE *BEHIND* US, TO HOLD THE DEFENDANT, GENERAL KRANG, FORTHWITH AN EXILE OF DIMENSION X, AS A *PERMANENT PRISONER*.

THERE, ADVISOR MA'RIELL HAS *ASSURED* ME, THE DEFENDANT WILL SERVE A LIFETIME SENTENCE THAT IS BOTH MORALLY *JUST* AND *COMPASSIONATE*, RENDERED BY THE VERY UTROM PEOPLE HE ONCE SAVED.

FOOM

COMMANDER DASK...

"...PLEASE TURN CUSTODY OF THE DEFENDANT OVER TO *LIEUTENANT KLEVE* AND *CORPORAL MONTUORO*."

GENERAL KRANG—WE'VE COME TO TAKE YOU *HOME*, SIR.

WOW. I DIDN'T SEE *THAT* COMING AT ALL.

POOR FATHER—THIS MUST HAVE BEEN *SO DIFFICULT* FOR HIM.

DIFFICULT?!

WHAT DOES *HE* KNOW OF DIFFICULT?

WHOA, PARTNER, TAKE A DEEP BREATH— *UFF!*

WHERE'S *MY* COMPASSION?

WHAT'S HE—

OH, NO.

WHERE'S *MY JUSTICE?!*

LEATHERHEAD— *WAIT!*

NO.

CHOMP

GULP

JUSTICE.

GET HIM!
NO!
FOOM
DON'T LET HIM ESC—
WAIT!
WE, UH, APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN BUT...
BUT THE GENERAL IS DEAD.
UM, YES... HE'S DEAD AND IT... IT'S FOR THE BEST. IMPRISONMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN A WORSE CURSE FOR GENERAL KRANG.
ARE YOU SURE?
ONE HUNDRED PERCENT.
YEAH—THE GENERAL WOULD'VE, UM... WANTED IT THIS WAY.
WE'LL INFORM ADVISOR MA'RIELL AND THE OTHERS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.
"GOOD BYE."
ARE WE REALLY GOING TO INFORM MA'RIELL, LIUETENANT?
NEGATIVE, CORPORAL. UNTIL WE FIND THAT MUTANT, CONSIDER THIS INCIDENT MILITARILY CLASSIFIED. THAT TURNCOAT MA'RIELL DOESN'T NEED TO KNOW ANYTHING.
FIRST WE LOCATE THE LIZARD, THEN WE FIND A WAY TO REVIVE COLONEL CH'RELL. AND THEN WE FINISH WHAT GENERAL KRANG STARTED.
ROGER THAT, SIR.

NOW *THAT* I DIDN'T SEE COMIN'.

A MOST STUNNING *TURN* OF EVENTS INDEED.

YES. ONE MIGHT CALL IT KARMIC.

OR ONE MIGHT CALL IT GROSS BECAUSE... *GROSS!*

WELL, IT SEEMS YOU HAD LEATHERHEAD *PEGGED*, LEONARDO. HE'S *NOT* TO BE TRUSTED.

NO. *NEITHER* CAN I.

MAYBE. BUT I CAN'T SAY I *BLAME* HIM THIS TIME, COMMANDER.

AND NOW WE MUST BID YOU ALL *FAREWELL*, MY FRIENDS.

ALTHOUGH THE PROBLEMS PRESENTED BY GENERAL KRANG HAVE NOW *ENDED* IN AN UNEXPECTED FASHION, *OTHER* ROYAL DUTIES AWAIT US.

UNTIL *NEXT* TIME, FRIENDS, WE PRAY THE CREATOR'S LIGHT *SHINES* UPON YOU ALL.

AND WE'LL MISS YOU *SO* MUCH!

SHE'S SO AWESOME.

THAT'S THE *CUE* FOR ME AND KALA TO SHIP OUT, TOO, DADDY-O'S.

YEAH...

"...WE'VE GOT SOME WITNESSES THAT ARE *READY* TO GET HOME."

DID I EVER TELL YOU PEEPS ABOUT THE TIME I LED MY *SKYBORNE SQUADRON* INTO THE FROZEN TUNDRA OF THE *DRY ICE PLANET?*

WILL THIS *NEVER* END...?

YOU KNOW, *COOL* AS CRUISING AROUND IN THAT HOTROD SHIP WAS, I'M KINDA GLAD WE'RE *GOIN' HOME*, TOO.

YEAH—I WONDER WHAT TROUBLE *PEPPERONI'S* GOTTEN INTO.

ALL I KNOW IS, AFTER THIS *INSANITY*, PEPPERONI'S MISCHIEF IS GONNA BE A *WELCOME* RELIEF.

SO, WHAT'S NEXT FOR *YOU*, PROFESSOR?

I GO BACK TO THE BUSINESS OF HELPING TO PROTECT MY PEOPLE, DONATELLO. GENERAL KRANG MAY BE GONE FOR GOOD NOW, BUT MALIGNA AND HER SWARM ARE NOT.

WE NEUTRINOS MUST TURN OUR FULL ATTENTION TO STOPPING THAT THREAT NOW.

NO *REST* FOR THE WEARY, HEY, PROFESSOR?

INDEED, COMMANDER. INDEED.

AS FOR THE GLORIOUS HEROES OF THE KRANG WAR, I OFFER A *HEARTFELT SALUTE*...

"...ONCE AGAIN, IT HAS BEEN AN *HONOR* AND A *PRIVILEGE* TO SERVE ALONGSIDE YOU ALL."

FOOM

The Turtle's interdimensional misadventures will continue in* ***TMNT/Ghostbusters 2* *– B.C.*

EPILOGUE.

SO, KING ZENTER, KRANG IS *VANQUISHED* AND MY PEOPLE'S *AGREEMENT* TO AID YOU AGAINST THE MALIGNOID SWARM HAS BEEN *MET*.

THE ONLY QUESTION *REMAINING* IS...

...HAVE YOU *MADE* YOUR DECISION?

I *HAVE*, COMMANDER ZOM.

ALTHOUGH GENERAL KRANG IS NOW GONE, THE TESTIMONY HE SHARED DURING HIS TRIAL STILL *REVERBERATES* IN MY HEART.

HIS WORDS WERE HARSH AND ACCUSATORY, AND THE *TRUTH* OF THEM HAS CAUSED ME NO SMALL AMOUNT OF *DISTRESS*.

HE WAS *RIGHT* TO LAY BLAME AT MY FEET FOR USING YOUR PEOPLE— AND I WAS *WRONG* FOR DOING SO.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

SIMPLY THIS—

—YOUR PEOPLE ARE OWED THE APOLOGIES OF *ALL* NEUTRINOS, BUT NONE MORE THAN *MYSELF*.

IT IS TRUE THAT IT WAS GENERAL KRANG WHO *STOLE* YOU AWAY FROM YOUR HOME WORLD, BUT IT HAS BEEN *I* WHO HAVE NOT ALLOWED YOU THE *MEANS* TO RETURN.

NO LONGER.

YOU REQUESTED A WORLD BE GIVEN TO YOUR PEOPLE, BUT THE FACT IS, THAT WORLD *ALREADY* EXISTS.

YOU ARE *EARTHLINGS* AND THEREFORE HAVE THE RIGHT TO *RETURN* TO PLANET EARTH. AND SO I HAVE ASKED MY SCIENTISTS TO ACTIVATE A *PORTAL* TO ALLOW FOR YOU TO DO SO.

THE DOOR HAS BEEN *OPENED* AND YOUR HOME *AWAITS*.

GOOD LUCK TO *ALL* OF YOU.

DO YOU THINK THEY'LL BE *OKAY*, FATHER?

THE TRICERATONS ARE A HEARTY AND RESILIENT LOT, TRIB.

I BELIEVE THEY WILL FIND A WAY TO MAKE THIS NEW OPPORTUNITY A *SUCCESSFUL* ONE.

AND WHAT OF *EARTH*, ZENTER?

WILL THE CURRENT INHABITANTS *WELCOME* THEIR ANCIENT BRETHREN'S RETURN?

THAT I DON'T KNOW, GIZZLA.

I ONLY KNOW THAT THE TIME HAS COME FOR OUR RESPECTIVE PLANETS TO CEASE RELYING ON THE SACRIFICES OF *OTHERS* TO MEET WHAT IS TRULY OUR *OWN* RESPONSIBILITIES.

AND IF OUR *TURTLE FRIENDS* ARE ANY INDICATION OF THE *KINDNESS* EARTHLINGS ARE CAPABLE OF...

"...THEN I THINK COMMANDER ZOM AND HER PEOPLE WILL FIND EARTH TO BE THE HOME THEY'VE *HOPED* FOR ALL THESE CENTURIES."

SIR, YOU'VE GOT TO *SEE* THIS...

...VIDEO FEED FROM THE *FAR SIDE OF THE MOON* STREAMING IN FROM LUNAR STATION 8.

WHAT IS IT?

I'M NOT *COMPLETELY* SURE, BUT IF I HAD TO GUESS...

"...I'D SAY WE'RE ABOUT TO BE *INVADED*, AGENT BISHOP."

art by KEVIN EASTMAN
colors by TOMI VARGA